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Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges'
Commission

P E N N S Y L V A N I A JUVENILE JUSTICE

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Edward G. Rendell, Governor

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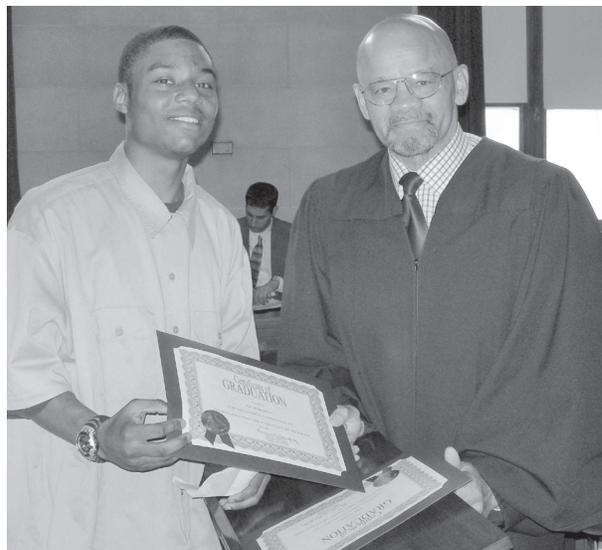
www.jcjc.state.pa.us

August 2006

Philadelphia Treatment Court Graduation

On July 27, 2006, a moving and enjoyable commencement ceremony was held in courtroom "D" of the Family Court Juvenile Branch located at 1801 Vine Street. This was truly a commencement exercise. All the parties involved were concentrating their attention and energy on one topic with many meanings: a new beginning. Indeed, there were as many interpretations of "a new beginning" as there were participants. Excitement, respect, approval, and hopeful expectations flowed throughout the courtroom. As family, friends, and officials looked on, three young men from Philadelphia took some initial steps into their brighter futures. In their hands and in their plans they also hold the future of our city.

The three young men whose graduation was being celebrated were concentrating hard on the remarks that they had prepared. The dog-eared pages of their speeches had obviously been read and



re-read many times. One of the graduates was concerned that his speech appeared to be much shorter than the others. The most important thing about his speech was WHAT it said, not its length. Later in the ceremony, three young

(See Treatment Court, back page)

Register now to receive on-line version of *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice*

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission will cease printing and mailing hard copies of *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice* in October 2006. Please visit the JCJC website, at www.jcjc.state.pa.us, to register to automatically receive the free on-line version of our newsletter. Please contact Greg Young, at gyoung@state.pa.us, or 717-477-1797, if you have any questions.

To sign up for the Governor's newsletter, visit www.governor.state.pa.us.

Chiefs Council Adopts Standard of Conduct

During 2000 and 2001, Executive Committee members of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO) engaged in both formal and informal discussions around the issue of the Council, or Council members being recipients of “gratuities” from private vendors. Historically, these gratuities have taken the form of meals, hospitality rooms, articles of clothing, golf outings, etc. Although never accepted with any “quid pro quo” understanding of favoritism toward one program or another through increased referrals or the like, concern had been expressed that acceptance of these efforts from private providers may certainly give the “appearance” of an impropriety. Indeed, officials outside of the juvenile justice system had stated that this was the impression being made.

In discussions, awareness was raised that we were all judicial employees. As such, we looked at the Judicial Standards of Conduct as promulgated by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Section 203 (d) of those Standards states that “...Employees shall not solicit or accept any gift or gratuity from any person or concern which provides or seeks to provide goods or services to the court.” This section does go on to state that “voluntary gifts of nominal value offered as ordinary social hospitality” are not prohibited.

At the direction of their President Judge, numerous juvenile probation departments in the Commonwealth have adopted this specific standard or a modified version. Some expanded it with very specific rules. It was clear that some Departments had already spoken to this issue in a way which was well-understood by staff – while other Departments did not have a policy.

In considering whether clarification was needed, the Council recognized that a continuum of gratuities may exist, ranging from staff picking up coffee mugs or pens on Resource Day; to being offered sweatshirts/jackets; to all-expenses paid trips to visit out-of-state facilities – with meals and golf included. It was difficult to design a policy which covered all of the possibilities.

Considering all of the above, the Council adopted the following Standard of Conduct at its Executive Committee meeting in July of 2001, and again in April of 2006 (new content underlined):

- In the course of Council business or activities, and in the course of local County operations, no member of the Executive Committee shall accept gifts or gratuities from persons or organizations that provide, or seek to provide, goods or services to Juvenile Courts, except for items of nominal value also made available to the general public.
- Activities such as golf outings, merchandise, meals, trips and items of clothing can be accepted only if the member pays the actual value of the item or event. In circumstances where it is unclear whether this policy applies, an officer of the Council should be contacted.
- It is recommended that all “active” members of the PCCJPO follow this policy.
- The PCCJPO will encourage each of the Commonwealth’s Juvenile Probation Departments to establish written policies on these issues for departmental use.

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 (julie@sgp.cc)

Cognitive Skills Aid Probation Officers

By Kimora, Ph.D.

As a professor of criminal justice and a prison educator, I have found that it is extremely helpful to inform probation officers about the positive implications of cognitive skills. It is my contention that once probation officers learn the fundamentals of cognitive skills, they will be more equipped to deal with all the cognitive distortions that are presented to them by their clients.

Cognitive skills involve the general areas of problem-solving skills, social skills, negotiation skills, values enhancement, management of emotions (especially anger), and critical thinking skills.

As a probation officer, one can teach probationers social competence by focusing on: 1) thinking skills, problem-solving, and decision making; 2) general strategies for recognizing problems, analyzing them; 3) conceiving and considering alternative non-criminal solutions to them; 4) formulating plans; 5) thinking logically, objectively, and rationally without over-generalizing, distorting facts, or externalizing blame; 6) calculating the consequences of their behavior, learning to stop and think before they act; 7) going beyond an egocentric view of the world and beginning to comprehend and consider the thoughts and feelings of other people; 8) improving interpersonal problem-solving skills and developing coping behaviors which can serve as effective alternatives to anti-social or criminal behavior; 9) viewing frustrations as problem-solving tasks and not just as personal threats; 10) developing a self-regulatory system so that their pro-social behavior is not dependent on external control; and 11) controlling their life; that what happens depends on large measure on their thinking and the behavior it leads them to (Fabiano, Robinson, Porporino, 1990).

Offenders who complete probation successfully become more positive toward the law, courts and police, increase their social perspective-taking abilities, improve their critical reasoning skills, and show more capacity for optional thinking (Kimora, 1995).

Sources:

Fabiano, E., Robinson, D., & Porporino, F. (1991). Preliminary assessment of the cognitive skills training program: a component of living skills programming. Ottawa, Correctional Service of Canada.
Kimora (1995). The need for cognitive skills training in correctional vocational education programming. Minneapolis: Center for Correctional Education Research/University of Minnesota. (published dissertation).

For more information, contact Professor Kimora at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York City at kimora@jjay.cuny.edu.

SAMHSA Publications Now Available

Co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders affect approximately 4.6 million individuals in the United States. However, only a small percentage of these individuals receive treatment that addresses both disorders. Many receive no treatment of any kind.

To better educate states, communities, and behavioral healthcare providers, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Co-Occurring Center for Excellence (COCE) has recently released the first in a series of brief publications on co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders.

The publications include:

- Overarching Principles to Address the Needs of Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders
- Definitions and Terms Relating to Co-Occurring Disorders; and
- Screening, Assessment and Treatment Planning for Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders

Related Resources include:

- Alcohol and Drug Dependence Is Not a Mental Illness or Behavioral Disorder
- Strategies for Developing Treatment Programs for People with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Disorders

The publications are the first of ten short papers, spanning topics such as epidemiology, treatment, workforce and systems issues, prevention, early intervention, and evaluation and monitoring. The documents are designed for substance abuse treatment counselors and mental health providers, but it will also be useful for administrators, primary care providers, juvenile justice staff, criminal justice staff, and other health care and social service personnel who work with people with co-occurring disorders.

Copies of these publications are available free of charge from SAMHSA's Clearinghouse (800) 729-6686 or (301) 468-2600, or on the SAMHSA website at www.cocesamhsa.gov.

SAMHSA is a public health agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. The agency is responsible for improving the accountability, capacity and effectiveness of the nation's substance abuse prevention, addictions, treatment, and mental health services delivery system.

Possibility Place Opens in Harrisburg

On June 13, 2006, the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Department kicked off the summer with a community service project that included 33 juveniles and 17 probation officers. The project titled "Possibility Place" is a new community park located in Lower Paxton Township, Harrisburg. The park is designed for children of all abilities, and specifically those with disabilities. Together, the juveniles and their probation officers worked on completing the handicapped accessible playground for the grand opening on August 12, 2006.

Some of the tasks performed included: setting fence posts around the playground, laying the framework for the playground structures, moving lumber and building materials, filling up water at washing stations, and painting some of the playground hardware. For many of the juveniles involved, this was a learning experience that will be cherished because of their involvement with such a unique community endeavor.

Although the work was intensive and the temperature reached into the mid-90's, all of the juveniles worked diligently and did not complain. Throughout the summer, Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Officers continued their involvement with community service projects. Accompanied by juveniles ordered to community service, the officers completed one project per week in their assigned geographic community. Overall, the community service performed instilled a sense of community pride among the youth involved and an opportunity for the community to witness firsthand a restorative juvenile justice system.

Forest County Youth Field Day A Big Success!

On July 22, 2006, the Forest County Probation Department, in conjunction with Forest County's Sheriff's Department, County Commissioners, and DUI Program, sponsored a booth for area youth who participated in the Annual Forest County Youth Field Day, held in Marienville, Pennsylvania. Forest County's Probation and Sheriff's Departments donated over \$1,000 worth of sporting goods as prizes for the youth participants. Various informational pamphlets were distributed to the youth regarding issues such as, drug and alcohol abuse, the effects of smoking, and alcoholism.

The first activity was a Bean-Bag Toss, where contestants ages one through nine were able to win various prizes by throwing a bean-bag through holes of various sizes. The second activity was the Lucky Shot Contest, for those youths ages nine through seventeen who shot a BB gun at a plate marked with a hidden X on the back. The contestant who was closest to the X for that round won a prize. Before shooting the BB gun, each child was given a short lesson on gun safety and shown the proper way to use a BB gun.

Every contestant who competed in the Bean-Bag Toss and Lucky Shot Competition was given the opportunity to enter a raffle. At the end of the day, ten names were drawn for the grand prizes.

Forest County probationers demonstrated accountability through community service assignments at the Annual Youth Field Day. Juveniles assisted event organizers with parking, food services, clean-up, and helping at various booths. Juvenile probation officers were present to assist and monitor the community service work assigned to each probationer.

2007 Children's Interagency Annual Conference

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The 2007 Children's Interagency Annual Conference will be held April 24 – 27, 2007 at the Penn State in State College. The theme for the conference is "**How Does Your Garden Grow? Cultivating Cross-System, Family-Driven, and Youth-Guided Partnerships.**" The Institute is now soliciting proposals for workshops and institutes at the conference. The call for presentations contains a description of the conference theme, requested topics for presentations, and guidelines and expectations. The call for presentations is available on-line at <http://pacassp.psych.psu.edu/docs/2007callforpresentations.htm>.

You will be able to submit a presentation and proposal using the online form. In addition, proposals are also being solicited for a poster contest and a reception on Wednesday evening during the conference. Information regarding the Poster Contest will be online soon.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK

October 1-7, 2006

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is based on the principles of restorative justice, which gives priority to repairing the harm done to crime victims and communities and defines offender accountability in terms of assuming responsibility and taking action to repair harm; and

WHEREAS, the mission is premised on the belief that crime victims, communities, and juvenile offenders must all be regarded as clients of the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, community protection refers to the fundamental right of all Pennsylvanians to be free of, and feel safe from, crime. Victim restoration emphasizes that crime can forever change its victims and that restoration programs should seek to restore crime victims, to the greatest extent possible, to their pre-crime status. Youth redemption embodies the belief that the vast majority of juvenile offenders are capable of change and have strength upon which treatment services can build; and

WHEREAS, all of the services designed and implemented to achieve this mission and all hearings and decisions under Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act must be provided in a fair and unbiased manner; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee has adopted the following mission statement for Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system: "Juvenile Justice: Community Protection; Victim Restoration; Youth Redemption."

THEREFORE, In special recognition of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and their work with juvenile offenders, crime victims, and communities, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 1-7, 2006, as PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK in the Commonwealth.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this ninth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and six, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirtieth.

Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

Please return a completed registration if you plan to attend the 2006 Conference on Juvenile Justice. CONFERENCE NAME BADGES WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ATTENDANCE AT ALL FUNCTIONS.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

REGISTRATION DESK OPENS NOON

PROFESSIONAL CAUCUSES 2-3:30PM

Join with colleagues from within your juvenile justice system specialty to discuss issues of concern and interest. Individual caucuses will be held for juvenile court judges and masters, chief juvenile probation officers, juvenile probation supervisors, juvenile defenders, line probation officers, residential service providers, prevention services, and victim service providers. These facilitated caucuses will be highly interactive and offer participants the opportunity to discuss critical issues and needs for the future.

CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER(S)

SERVICE PROVIDER FORUM 3:45-5:00PM

CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER FORUM 3:30-5:00PM

YOUTH AWARDS PROGRAM & DINNER 5:30PM



VINCE PAPALE

In 1976, at the age of 30, **Vince Papale** was working as a school teacher when the head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, Dick Vermeil, held a press conference and invited some locals to a workout. Vince tried out for the team, and overcame tremendous odds to become the oldest rookie in the history of the NFL - a record he still holds today. After retiring from the Eagles after the 1979 season, Vince became a television and radio broadcaster. After that, he entered the world of commercial mortgage banking, which led to his present position as the Marketing Executive and Special Projects Director for Sallie Mae, a student financial aid company. Come hear about Vince's inspirational journey from humble working class beginnings and troubled home life to successful professional athlete and businessman. Don't miss the Disney movie "**Invincible**," scheduled for release in theaters on August 25th, which was inspired by Vince's life!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

REGISTRATION DESK OPENS 8AM

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST 8AM

CONFERENCE WELCOME

& KEYNOTE PRESENTATION 9:00AM

"CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY: THE ROLE OF PENNSYLVANIA IN SHAPING JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY IN AMERICA"



DENNIS MALONEY

Dennis Maloney, President of Community Justice Associates and author of "Juvenile Probation: The Balanced Approach," will return to Pennsylvania to share his unique perspectives on Pennsylvania's role as a national leader in juvenile justice policy and practice. In the past decade, Dennis Maloney has provided technical assistance to all fifty states, and his writings have now been distributed to more than 250 countries as his work is being utilized worldwide as a foundation for juvenile justice system reform. In 1998, the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention recognized Dennis as one of five citizens who have had the most positive influence on the nation's juvenile justice system.

JUVENILE DEFENDER TRAINING 8:45AM-4:45PM

(Juvenile Defenders Only)

TRAINING WORKSHOPS 10:30-NOON & 1:30-3:00

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10:30 - NOON:

- Trauma Informed Care for Delinquent Youth
- The Models for Change Initiative: The Pennsylvania / MacArthur Foundation Partnership
- The New Juvenile Delinquency Benchbook: Keys to an Effective Juvenile Court
- Juvenile Sex Offending: How Do I Know He Won't Do It Again?
- Beyond the Report Card: Using Pennsylvania's Performance Measures to Enhance Performance
- Enhancing Educational Reintegration and Aftercare
- Treating Girls: A Gender Responsive Juvenile Justice System
- Using Family Group Decision Making in Juvenile Delinquency Cases
- Supervising Gang-affiliated Juveniles
- Achieving Restorative Justice Through Community Partnerships
- Improving Outcomes Through Child Welfare / Juvenile Justice Coordination
- Advancing Accountability: Moving Toward Victim Restoration
- Keys to the Successful Implementation of Restitution Funds
- Collaborative Approaches to Restorative Justice and Treatment in the YDC / YFC System

BUFFET LUNCH NOON-1:30PM

1:30 - 3:00PM:

- Pathways to Possibilities: Strengths-based, Solution-focused Collaborative Practice
- A New Direction: The YDC's Substance Abuse Treatment Model
- Restorative Justice in Academia: The Saint Joseph's University Program
- Shippensburg University Practicum Studies in Restorative Justice
- The Supervision and Treatment of Minority & Female Sexual Offenders
- Developing Competencies in Delinquent Youth: Promising Practices in Pennsylvania
- The Economic Return on Investment of Evidence-based Prevention Programs
- An Overview of Pennsylvania's Victim / Community Awareness Curriculum
- Competency Development Through Community Service
- Restorative Discipline in Schools
- Implementing Community Justice Panels
- Implications of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006
- The State of Aftercare in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System
- An Analysis of Pennsylvania's Youth Gang Data

AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION 3:15-4:45PM

"BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN PENNSYLVANIA: WHY?...HOW? AND...WHERE TO FROM HERE?"

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the effective date of Act 33 of Special Session No. 1 of 1995, Dennis Maloney will moderate a panel of key juvenile justice system stakeholders who will share their perspectives on Pennsylvania's progress in achieving a balanced and restorative juvenile justice system. Dennis will guide the panel in a discussion of the history of the dramatic reform efforts in Pennsylvania, a candid assessment of our current system, and the panel's vision for the future of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and what must be done to make that vision a reality.

ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM AND DINNER

RECEPTION 5:45PM

DINNER AND PROGRAM 7PM

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers honor both individuals and programs for outstanding work in the juvenile justice system.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

RESOURCE DAY 2006 WITH

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST 8AM-NOON

MACARTHUR

MODELS FOR CHANGE FORUM 8:30AM-NOON

(Participation limited to invited guests of The Juvenile Law Center)

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM AS NEEDED FOR EACH REGISTRANT.
ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED AND TYPED OR CLEARLY PRINTED.
 DUE TO THE LARGE VOLUME OF ATTENDEES, REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY PHONE OR FAX.

Name _____ Title _____
 Agency _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Complete CONFERENCE PACKAGE (Nov. 1 - 3) \$240* (\$280)**
 Includes: Professional Caucuses and Youth Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 1); Continental Breakfast, Morning & Afternoon Plenary Sessions, Lunch, Workshops, Reception, and Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 2); Continental Breakfast & Resource Day (Nov. 3)

NOTE: Full conference attendance constitutes 9 Pa. Certification Board Credits.

<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Caucuses (Nov. 1)	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 1)	\$50*	(\$60)**
<input type="checkbox"/> Continental Breakfast, Morning & Afternoon Plenary Sessions, Lunch, and Workshops (Nov. 2)	\$100*	(\$110)**
<input type="checkbox"/> Reception and Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 2)	\$60*	(\$70)**
<input type="checkbox"/> Continental Breakfast & Resource Day (Nov. 3)	\$30*	(\$40)**
<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer vegetarian meals.	GRAND TOTAL	\$ _____ \$ _____

* Registration forms must be postmarked on or before **OCTOBER 6, 2006**

** Registration forms postmarked on or after **OCTOBER 7, 2006**

 Make checks payable to: Pa. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (Federal ID# 23-2498588)

Registration form and payment should be mailed to: Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
 401 Finance Building
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018

Agencies may submit one check for all staff attending.
 Indicate if payment is enclosed or will be sent separately.

Payment Enclosed *(Please include a list of names & agency affiliation with check.)*
 Payment will be sent separately.

 Lodging reservations at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers must be made by **10/1/06** to receive the negotiated group rate of \$99 a night (single/double/triple/quad). Call 717-233-6000 and identify yourself with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Conference. The hotel will confirm your reservation. Check-in time is 3 p.m.; check-out is noon. After **10/1/06**, reservations will be accepted on a room-availability basis at the prevailing rate. Conference overflow hotels are the Crowne Plaza on Market Square (\$96) 717-234-5021 and the Radisson Penn Harris in Camp Hill (\$101) 717-763-7117 (identify yourself with the JCJC Conference).

Requests for registration fee refunds for all or part of the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice must be sent in writing to the JCJC at the above address and be postmarked by **10/20/06**. Conference "no-shows" who have not prepaid will be invoiced.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION: (717) 787-6910

(Treatment Court, continued from p. 1)

people revealed their plans – at least one of which includes college – amid the approving onlookers. It was a scene in a juvenile courtroom that is seen none too often: a display of pride, success, congratulations, and good feelings about the future.



Presiding Judge Abram Frank Reynolds takes an obvious interest in the lives of the young people who appear before him, and this was certainly no exception. His remarks harkened back to his own childhood and expressed his continuing hope for the young people, their families, and the neighborhoods of the City of Philadelphia.

In September of 2004, the Juvenile Treatment Court (JTC) was established by the Philadelphia Family Court. The JTC is an intensive diversion program for juveniles in need of drug treatment. The program is managed by an interdisciplinary team under the supervision of the JTC judge. Eligibility criteria require that candidates must be 14 to 17 years old with a non-violent new charge. In addition, they should have no more than two prior adjudications (none for a violent charge), and a need for drug treatment. Participants must also reside in the pilot project target area in West Philadelphia. All juveniles arrested for drug sales are screened for referral to the program.

The goals of the program are:

- **reduce the use of drugs;**
- **reduce criminal behavior;**
- **increase the completion rate of outpatient drug treatment programs; and**
- **improve treatment outcomes through interagency collaboration.**

An unwritten goal is to help give young people the chance to start a new life.

Entry into the program is voluntary. Participants must take responsibility for their actions but actual judicial adjudications of delinquency are deferred. This allows for dismissal of the charges at graduation after successful completion of the program. With satisfactory behavior, the records of the arrest are expunged 12 months later.

Success is the result of effective counselors, committed participants and exceptional Treatment Court staff. This program is a cooperative effort of the Family Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Defender Association, Coordinating Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Philadelphia Health Management Corporation, the West Philadelphia Mental Health Consortium, the School District of Philadelphia, and the Department of Human Services.

Graduates stay connected to the Treatment Court by participating in an alumni group and other programs.

