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Pa. Supreme Court Modifies Delinquency Rules

The Supreme Court made several minor modifications to the Delinquency Rules, which became effective upon the Court's Order dated December 30, 2005. These changes were published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on January 14, 2006 (36 Pa.B. 186).

Rule 120 (Definitions) was amended to include a definition for the term "verification". The term "verification" is defined as "a written statement made by a person that the information provided is true and correct to that person's personal knowledge, information, or belief and that any false statements are subject to the penalties of the Crimes Code, 18 Pa. C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities". This definition clarifies the requirement of Rule 232(10) that every written allegation shall contain a verification by the person making the allegation, that the facts set forth in the written allegation are true and correct, and the equivalent provision of Rule 330(10) pertaining to the contents of a petition.

Rule 160 (Inspection of Juvenile File / Records) was amended to include the State Sexual Offenders Assessment Board among the list of entities authorized to inspect the contents of juvenile court files and records. This Rule is now consistent with the provisions of 42 Pa. C.S. §6307.

The Comment to Rule 373 (Conditions of Consent Decree) was amended to provide as follows: "Paragraph (B) requires a motion to be filed for early dismissal from consent decree. The procedures of Rule 344 are to be followed to ensure all parties are properly notified of the request and appropriate objections can be made. Rule 800 suspends 42 Pa. C.S. §6340(c) only to the extent that there is an additional requirement that a motion is to be filed."

The first paragraph in the Comment to Rule 610 (Dispositional and Commitment Review) was amended to conclude with the phrase "see Rule 800". This paragraph explains that under paragraph (A) of Rule 610, the court may hold a review hearing at any time; however, if the juvenile is removed from the home, the court is to conduct a hearing at least every six months.

Rule 800 (Suspensions of Acts of Assembly) was amended to include the suspension of the following Acts:

- The Act of July 9, 1976, P.L.586, No. 142, §2, 42 Pa. C.S. §6340(c), which provides consent decree shall remain in force for

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PAPPC conference set

The Sheraton Station Square, Pittsburgh will be the host site of the 85th Annual Training Institute and Conference of the Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections (PAPPC), held in conjunction with the Juvenile Detention Centers Association of Pennsylvania (JDCAP), May 21-24, 2006. This conference will feature 24 workshops with a range of topics that will be of interest to county and state agencies engaged in adult and juvenile justice practice.

A partial listing of workshops includes: Fire Setter; Ground Avoidance and Ground Escapes (GAGE); Office Morals and Professionalism; Rave Drugs; Satan and the Occult; and Understanding the Islamic Faith. The opening session will include remarks by Pennsylvania Attorney General, Tom Corbett. Additionally, there will be a featured presentation by Andre Norman, an international motivational speaker.

A Gala Event is scheduled to occur Monday evening on the river boat cruise, *Gateway Clipper*. "A Body In Motion," based on Howard Zehr's book "*Transcending: Reflections of Crime Victims*" will be performed Tuesday afternoon. The theme for the conference is "Raising the Bar." For more information visit the PAPPC website at www.pappc.org, or contact Nicolas Barrelet 717-787-7752, nbarrelet@state.pa.us or, Nicole Remsburg, 717-232-7554 nremsburg@pacounties.org.



Lenore Wyant appointed Communities that Care® director

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce that Lenore Wyant has been selected as the Director of Communities that Care® (CTC). She holds both a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a Master of Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Lenore most recently was the supervisor for Pennsylvania's Independent Living Project at the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Competency-based Training and Certification Program. She also has experience working as a treatment supervisor for Cornell Abraxas.

In her new capacity as director, Ms. Wyant will provide management of the statewide CTC training and technical assistance project in conjunction with a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The Risk-Focused Violence and Delinquency Prevention grant supports five Regional Strategic Consultants (RSCs) who provide technical assistance and support to CTC sites throughout the Commonwealth.

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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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)

Staff development news

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

March 15-16, preceding the March 17 General Membership meeting of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers in State College, we are hosting the workshop “Advancing Competency Development in the Juvenile Justice System”. This session will provide a broad overview of the Advancing Competency Development White Paper that defines principles, practices, and outcomes for the least understood goal of Pennsylvania’s Balanced and Restorative Justice mandate.

This training, led by National Center for Juvenile Justice Research Associates Doug Thomas and Patricia Torbet, will help juvenile justice practitioners to assess their efforts at defining and measuring the development of competencies for the youth with whom they work by specifically addressing five basic skill areas: pro-social, moral reasoning, academic, workforce, and independent living skills. There will also be discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the various system stakeholders.

March 29-30 in State College, we are again sponsoring the workshop “Juvenile Justice Minority Sensitivity”. This program is appropriate for all juvenile justice practitioners who work with youth from varying cultures, races and nationalities. This workshop will provide participants with the skills, behaviors, and strategies for interacting with both youth and adults considering multiple dimensions of culture. A comprehensive manual will be provided that covers four modules: broad awareness of diversity, understanding yourself, understanding others, and conflict resolution. Material will also be presented on the issue of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) and related concepts; specifically efforts in Pennsylvania to address this issue. The presenter, Dr. Michael Lindsey, is a nationally recognized expert on cultural competence, and has also been a consultant to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency DMC subcommittee for several years. This workshop is an excellent opportunity to increase cultural competence while gaining a basic understanding of DMC, and to understand how increased cultural competence can positively affect DMC, locally and statewide.

March 30-31 in State College, we are hosting “Introduction to Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)”. In times of tight budgets and increased hardships for American families, FGDM provides a simple and powerful alternative for strengthening families. The

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Screening and Assessment Training Program Held at Days Inn Penn State

A one-day training program was held on January 19, 2006, at the Days Inn Penn State, as a follow-up to the May 2005 training program on screening and assessment instruments. The Research Committee of the Pa. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers met several times since the May 2005 training program to narrow the field of screening and assessment instruments that would be appropriate for use by juvenile probation departments in Pennsylvania. At their November 2005 meeting, the Executive Committee of the Council endorsed the concept of this “hands-on” training program, conducted by individuals who currently use the screening and assessment instruments in Pennsylvania.

Over 125 individuals were in attendance to receive information on the following six screening and assessment instruments.

- Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2)
- Problem Oriented Screening Instrument for Teenagers (POSIT)
- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS-JJ)
- Youth Level of Service (YLS)
- Washington State Juvenile Court Assessment
- Intervention Needs and Competency Assessment (INCA)

Following the training program, chief juvenile probation officers in attendance were invited to participate in pilot screening and assessment programs. Any chief juvenile probation officer who desires to participate in such a program, or who would like additional information regarding this initiative, should contact Keith Snyder at (717) 787-5634, or at ksnyder@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.

DPW Issues Special Transmittal on Strategies and Practices to Eliminate the Unnecessary Use of Restraint

The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) issued a Special Transmittal dated January 30, 2006 (regarding “Strategies and Practices to Eliminate Unnecessary Use of Restraint” in child residential and day treatment programs licensed by DPW under Title 55 Pa. Code, Chapter 3800). The Special Transmittal was released in conjunction with DPW’s “Alternatives to Coercive Techniques” roll-out event on February 1, 2006. The purpose of the Special Transmittal is to provide guidance to assist in the implementation of strategies and practices that lead to the elimination of unnecessary restraint and that promote environments free of violence and coercion through safe and best practice management of children.

According to the Special Transmittal, DPW believes that restraint is to be utilized only as an emergency measure of last resort in order to ensure the safety of all children and provider staff. Existing regulations provide for the use of restrictive procedures only to prevent a child from injuring himself or others. The Special Transmittal explains that this could include situations to prevent a child from absconding from a court ordered shelter or residential placement.

DPW described best practice strategies in the Special Transmittal, and DPW program representatives will discuss these strategies with provider staff during annual inspections or other site visits. The six best practice strategies include:

- Leadership must support organizational change and adhere to best practice standards;
- Use of data to inform practice change;
- Workforce development and training for all staff;
- Use of restraint reduction tools;
- Include the child and family in organizational change; and
- Debriefing techniques.

DPW will be facilitating four “Alternative to Coercive Techniques” Regional Forums during the month of April at separate locations across the Commonwealth. Please contact Carolyn Snyder, at carsnyder@state.pa.us, or at (717) 705-8289, if you would like to attend any of the following regional forums:

DPW issues transmittal, continued on back page

Evolution of PaJCMS

In 1994 the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC), the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and approximately 15 juvenile probation offices started a process to provide electronic case management capabilities to county juvenile probation departments. The original case management system was a DOS application developed by a vendor with JCJC providing project management, PCCD and JCJC providing funding, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO) administering the project grant, and the counties participating in requirements definition, user acceptance, and ongoing input for fixes, changes and enhancements to the application.

In November 1999 the PCCJPO and JCJC undertook the task of migrating the DOS application to a Windows environment using an ORACLE database. JCJC provided project management and application development resources and put in place a team of developers/database administrators, and IT technicians to support the project. A group of counties provided personnel to Beta test the application and provide advice during the development stage and subsequent deployment. PCCD provided fiscal resources and PCCJPO administered the grant. Additional functionality was built into the application and Crystal Reports was adopted as the reports generator for the application. A key component of the application migration was the conversion of county data from the DOS application to the new Windows/Oracle system. Deployment of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) production application started in October 2002. Upon completion, 47 counties were using the application.

Although the application was receiving widespread acceptance in juvenile probation departments, there were some limitations and negative impacts associated with the PaJCMS. The Oracle database would be too expensive for some counties to maintain with their own resources, the client server environment required on site support to setup and maintain stations, and the manner in which counties were forced to enter information did not truly reflect the way in which they did business. Also, there was a consensus that emerging technologies would provide counties with opportunities to exchange and utilize information. Based upon these considerations the decision was made to initiate a new project to migrate and re-architecture the system.

The first step of the new project was to move each county’s data from the Oracle database to a SQL

Server database that would be more cost effective for counties to maintain. As of January 31, 2006 this task was completed. Simultaneously, the presentation layer of the application was developed using .NET technologies and being redesigned based on requirements gathered from a series of meetings with power user counties. The re-architected and redesigned application is being readied for BETA testing. On February 8 the Beta Test counties were given a preview and allowed to "test drive" the application and provide feedback. Their input will be incorporated during the testing phase which will begin in March with a Beta Test County training.

Upon conclusion of the project, 62 Pennsylvania juvenile probation offices will be using the PaJCMS.

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process involves inviting a family, its extended family and community, probation officers, caseworkers, and service providers to come together and plan for the welfare of children by having the family act as primary decision makers for their children. Through this workshop, participants will learn: what is FGDM, the values and beliefs that are the foundation of FGDM, the advantages FGDM has for children, their families and communities, and for juvenile justice agencies, how FGDM is presently practiced in this country, and the role of juvenile justice staff in FGDM.

This workshop will be led by Jim Nice, an internationally recognized consultant on FGDM who has trained the model in thirty-two states, and is appropriate for personnel from all human service systems that are interested in the practice. Day-two of the workshop will be presented by a panel of county level practitioners from across the Commonwealth who are successfully utilizing FGDM. Challenges to implementation, practical ideas for overcoming challenges, current research and resources for implementing and utilizing FGDM within the participants' agency and community will be presented.

For further details on these or other Center-sponsored training, please refer to the Spring 2006 Training brochure or visit the Commission website: www.jcj.state.pa.us and click on training and then Spring 2006. Additional questions may be directed to John Herb at 717-477-1185, press 3 or Stephen Bishop at 717-477-1294.

Diversity task force roundtable discussion on permanency issues for children of color

Over the last six months, the PA Child Welfare Competency-Based Training Program's Diversity Taskforce has been enthusiastically planning for a roundtable discussion that will focus on permanency issues for children of color. This roundtable discussion is entitled "One Child at a Time." Permanency continues to be a concern in Pennsylvania for children and youth of color in placement. The purpose of this roundtable is to: insure that we are addressing planning for children and youth of color regarding the educational system, health care system, religion/spirituality, social, and maintaining family connections; increase the public's knowledge and awareness among the human service field on the diverse needs for children and youth of color that come into placement;

- increase the learning areas during planning;
- improve the response of how we evaluate the family and engage them during the planning process; and,
- formulate a positive response by the community.

Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program Topics will include:

- Community Connections & Resources
- The Courts and Legal Issues
- Preserving Kinship Connections
- Coordinating Systems of Care & Individual Child Service Plan

Please mark your calendar now for April 27, 2006. This roundtable event will be held at the PA Child Welfare Competency-Based Training Program in Mechanicsburg, PA.

For more information on this event or to become a member of the Diversity Taskforce, please contact Vernatta Jones at 717-795-9048 ext. 223 or email me at vjones@pitt.edu.

Training Scheduled for Redesigned “New Employee Manual”

A recently redesigned New Employee Manual for use in juvenile probation departments is about to be released, along with a companion Supervisor version. The manuals will be sent to Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, along with a CD-ROM copy of the NCJJ Desktop Guide to Good Juvenile Probation Practice. These manuals will also be available on the JCJC website. The Center has scheduled a training workshop on April 6-7 in State College, designed to introduce and assist supervisors make the most of these materials. The new Employee Manual and the Supervisor version were created as a project of the Training and Planning Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. Special thanks go to the following individuals: Becky Brant, York County Juvenile Probation Department; Brian Steuhl, Pike County Probation Department; and Stephen Bishop and Susan Blackburn of the CJJT&R..

To formally introduce the redesigned Employee and Supervisor manuals to chiefs and supervisors, the CJJT&R staff, in collaboration with Transfer of Learning staff of the Competency-based Child Welfare Training Project, will be presenting a workshop on April 6-7 entitled “Getting New Juvenile Probation Officers Up to Speed: A Program for Supervisors”. The workshop will also focus on maximizing the learning experience, whether the training is provided in-house or is outsourced. To take advantage of this important staff development workshop, refer to program #9 in the CJJT&R Spring Staff Development schedule. This program and others may also be accessed online at the JCJC website, www.jcjc.state.pa.us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Bishop at 717 477-1294 or John Herb at 717 477-1185.

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six months unless the child is discharged sooner by probation services with the approval of the court, is suspended only insofar as the Act is inconsistent with the requirement of Rule 373 that a motion for early discharge is to be made to the court.

- The Act of July 9, 1976, P.L.586, No. 142, §2, 42 Pa. C.S. §6353(a) which requires dispositional review hearings to be held at least every nine months is suspended only insofar as it is inconsistent with the requirement of Rule 610, which requires dispositional review hearings to be held at least every six months when a juvenile is removed from the home.

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- Northeast Region, Northeastern Intermediate Unit, Archbald, April 3, 2006;
- Central Region, Child Welfare Training Center, Mechanicsburg, April 5, 2006;
- Southeast Region, Chester County Intermediate Unit, Downingtown, April 10, 2006; or,
- Western Region, Midwestern Intermediate Unit, Grove City, April 12, 2006.

Questions regarding this initiative should be directed to the appropriate DPW regional staff, as follows:

Juvenile Justice, Jamey Welty, 717-705-2457 jwelty@state.pa.us; Child Welfare, Cathy Utz 717-705-2912, cutz@state.pa.us; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Julie Barley, 717-772-6427, jbarley@state.pa.us, or Barbara Johncour, 717-772-6835, bjohncour@state.pa.us

