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National Crime Victims' Rights Week Celebrated

“Victims’ Rights: Strength in Unity”

The Coalition of Pennsylvania Crime Victims Organizations (COPCVO) commemorated National Crime Victims’ Rights Week with a rally at the state Capitol on Monday, April 24, 2006. This was the fourteenth Annual Victims’ Rights rally for Pennsylvania, with approximately 200 crime victims and their families, advocates, legislators and criminal and juvenile justice professionals gathered to raise awareness of the impact of crime on victims’ lives and join in unity for victims rights and services.

The 2006 theme for the rally was “*Victims Rights: Strength in Unity.*” The theme reflects that crime victims and survivors gain strength from the understanding and assistance they receive from family, friends, neighbors and co-workers, who offer greatly needed support.



Opening remarks at the rally were presented by Ms. Stephanie Walsh, President of COPCVO and Ms. Jennifer Storm, COPCVO Legislative Director and the rally coordinator. Speakers for the event included Governor Edward G. Rendell and Ms. Carol L. Lavery, Pennsylvania’s Victim Advocate.

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Weekend Master's Degree Program accepting applications for the Class of 2009

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Weekend Master's Degree Program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2009 will begin classes in the fall of 2007. The deadline to apply is September 1, 2006.

The Shippensburg University program offers students a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice. This is a 36-credit hour program that includes courses in research methods, theory, administration, and policy analysis. Also featured is a summer internship in which students have the opportunity to develop, implement, and evaluate a program in their home county, or evaluate an existing program that serves juvenile offenders.

Classes in this two-year program are scheduled every third weekend in the fall, spring, and summer, with no classes scheduled during the months of July and August. This program is available to county juvenile probation officers who will have at least two years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes. Applicants who have an undergraduate grade point average of less than 2.75 must take and pass the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Additional information about the program is available on the JCJC website, www.jcjc.state.pa.us. If you have any questions, or are interested in applying for the program, please contact Greg Young at 717-447-1797 or gyoung@state.pa.us.

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)

Student Assistance Leadership Training Offered

Local Student Assistance Programs (SAP) make referrals for mental health and drug and alcohol services for children who may have been previously undiagnosed or untreated. These programs are sponsored and funded through the Departments of Health, Education and Public Welfare.

The Department of Education released a document, "*Frequently Asked Questions and Best Practices*" in response to questions about Student Assistance Programs. Currently, the Pennsylvania Department of Education is offering assistance to schools to develop websites that will be linked to the Commonwealth SAP website. For additional information on SAP, please visit the Student Assistance Program website at <http://www.sap.state.pa.us>.

The Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs, in the Department of Health, is offering Student Assistance Program Leadership Trainings at the Regional Training Institute for Single County Administrators (SCA) in 2006. The purpose of the SAP Leadership Training is to provide school and community leaders with a current understanding of the Commonwealth's Student Assistance Program model. The training focuses on important issues for school district administrators, school board members and other staff in leadership roles, as well as administrators of drug and alcohol, juvenile justice and mental health agencies.

Participants will receive information on current best practices in SAP, the legal environment in which programs operate in Pennsylvania, and strategies for improving, measuring, supporting and maintaining, SAP in communities. The training is scheduled for May 24, 2006 at the Wyndham Reading Hotel in Reading. For information on the SAP Leadership Training, visit <http://bdap.health.state.pa.us/mrtr/ListDates.aspx> and scroll down to "SAP Leadership Training." If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact Robert Burhannan by e-Mail at rburhannan@state.pa.us.

Five Counties Pilot Juvenile Watch List Inquiry Application

Staff from Justice Network (JNET) and the Juvenile Court Judge's Commission (JCJC) have worked together to develop a new application called "Juvenile Watch List Inquiry." This new application provides authorized users (police, probation officers, corrections officials, and district attorneys) with the ability to query county juvenile probation records via secure JNET.

Juvenile probation department participation is voluntary and at the discretion of each agency. Juvenile watch list data is not available via JNET unless a juvenile justice agency wishes to participate in the Juvenile Watch List Inquiry application. A list of participating juvenile probation departments is presented to the user when the application is launched.

The Juvenile Watch List Inquiry is supported by a subset of offender information that is published by county juvenile justice agencies throughout the Commonwealth. This data is posted to a centralized database by a county watch list administrator designated by the county's chief juvenile probation officer. It is then available to authorized JNET users to determine if a juvenile suspect or offender is on a watch list. In the event that the juvenile is on a watch list, the requesting user will be presented with contact information for the supervising juvenile probation officer. Meanwhile, a notification is sent to a designated probation official advising that a public safety practitioner has conducted an inquiry for one of their clients.

Data availability is dependent upon the following factors: juvenile data being provided by juvenile justice agencies at their discretion and is not an all inclusive list of juveniles under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court; not all 67 counties are currently participating in the application; decisions regarding data availability are made at the county agency level; and registrars must add the entitlement for access. Registrars are encouraged to work with their Criminal Justice Advisory Boards and agency Sponsors to add the entitlement for authorized users of the Juvenile Watch List Inquiry application.

Training for this new application has been incorporated into JNET Overview Training (Instructor Led & Online Training). A Quick Reference Card for authorized users may be obtained from the JNET secure site website. Please encourage your pro-

spective users to review the updates in the JNET Learning Management System (online training), or by reviewing the JNET Overview Training Slides available on JNET's public and secure websites.

The new application is being piloted in five counties (Allegheny, Cumberland, Pike, Tioga, Venango), with the successful completion of the pilot anticipated in mid-June. Additional county juvenile justice agencies will be added to the application upon request. Interested juvenile probation departments should contact Tom Green (717-705-6596, tgreen@state.pa.us) or John Cookus (717-705-9006, jcookus@state.pa.us) for additional information.

Southeast Region Communities That Care Sites Highlight Success

On March 22, 2006, representatives and key leaders from the eleven Bucks County Communities That Care (CTC) sites met to showcase the success of their respective CTC Programs and highlight services offered through their collaborative partners.

The meeting was planned by Bucks Promise for Youth and Communities, and was designed as a way for the Key Leaders of all CTC sites across the county to gather and network, discuss programs of common interest and to explore ways to implement CTC with greater fidelity. Several guest speakers addressed the group on topics of interest to the 80 attendees. Marge Hanna, Executive Director of the Bucks Council on Drugs and Alcohol, opened the meeting and provided a brief history of CTC in the county and progress made to date.

Tom Bux, Southeast Regional Strategic Consultant with the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, provided details on the CTC process, and Brain Bumbarger, a researcher at the Prevention Research Center at Penn State University, presented research findings that compared CTC sites to non-CTC sites. Mr. Bumbarger indicated that a substantial reduction in risk factors associated with problem behaviors occurs in communities that implement CTC with fidelity. Those same CTC sites also showed increased protective factors.

2006 Communities That Care Symposium

The 2006 Pennsylvania Communities That Care Symposium, "Promoting Excellence for the Future," was held April 18-19 at the Atherton Hotel in State College.

The two-day symposium, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), advanced excellence in Communities That Care (CTC) initiatives and equipped the vast network of Pennsylvania CTC practitioners to build capacity for sustainability.

The symposium was designed to provide the latest information from the field and to meet the demand for specific technical assistance priority needs such as outcomes and assessment, marketing and sustainability, and data collection and survey presentation.

Dr. J. David Hawkins, Founding Director of the Social Development Research Group, at the University of Washington, in Seattle, was the Keynote Speaker. Dr. Hawkins explained the five phases of CTC Implementation, and the science behind addressing risk factors and increasing protective factors to prevent the adolescent problem behaviors of delinquency, violence, substance abuse, teen pregnancy and school drop out. He also recognized Pennsylvania and PCCD's leadership for embracing the principals and philosophies of CTC.

Dr. Hawkins is the principal investigator of the Community Youth Development Study (CYDS), a randomized field experiment involving 24 communities across seven states testing the effectiveness of the Communities That Care operating system. He stated that several recent evaluations of communities suggest that communities need a strategy to structure and guide collaborative community action. CTC provides a research-based system for communities to build partnerships, maintain support and increase sustainability. CTC matches the local profile of risk and protective factors with tested, effective prevention strategies and focuses on outcomes to insure accountability.

Dr. Hawkins discussed the recent acquisition of CTC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and indicated that SAMHSA is strongly committed to making CTC materials available and offered suggestions on how to obtain the materials online. There are currently a total of 31 guides available as resources for communities that can be accessed at <http://www.ncadi.samhsa.gov/features/ctc/> and downloaded free.

A pre-symposium workshop, highlighting SmartTrack™ and the preliminary results of the 2005 Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) data, was held the morning of the first day. PCCD contracted with Westat, Inc., to conduct the 2005



Dr. J. David Hawkins, keynote speaker

PAYS survey, which was administered to students in 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grades in school districts across the Commonwealth in November and December of 2005. SmartTrack™ is an Internet-based data collection and dissemination tool for school districts, and states. Schools that took the PAYS online can utilize SmartTrack to analyze data and cross-tabulate results to provide specific reports.

Preliminary results of the 2005 PAYS indicate that, as expected, risk factors increase and protective factors decrease as adolescents grow older. A complete report summarizing the findings of the 2005 PAYS should be available this spring.

Three concurrent workshops were offered to the symposium participants. Amy Bailey, Nine Dots Consulting, Somerset, and Patricia B. Schwartz of Patricia B. Schwartz & Associates, Fairfield, co-presented a workshop on marketing and sustainability. Bailey presented "Social Marketing Basics" and Schwartz presented "Strategies for Sustainability: Building a Resource Development Program."

Rosemary Adiletto, Prevention Program Coordinator, TODAY, Inc. Prevention Services, Bensalem, and Wayne M. Harding, Ed.M., Ph.D., Director of Projects, Social Science Research &

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Evaluation, Inc., Burlington, Massachusetts, co-presented "Data: Collecting, Analyzing and Presenting it to Your Community."

Brian Bumbarger, Director of Policy Research for the Prevention Research Center at Penn State University, and Margie DuBrow, Creative Management Strategies, Philadelphia, co-presented "Assessing the Impact of Your Program."

There was also a reception hosted by the Pennsylvania Association of Community-based Prevention Coalitions (PACPC) during the symposium, that offered CTC practitioners the opportunity to learn more about PACPC, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting and sustaining the research-based strategies that have been proven to increase positive youth development, through networking, training and forming collaborations in Pennsylvania communities.

Bucks County Kicks off Competency Development Program – P.R.O.G.R.E.S.S.

The Partnerships for Restorative Outcomes, Growth, Redemption, and Enhancement of Social Skills (PROGRESS) Program was officially launched in April, 2006. PROGRESS is a partnership between the Youth Services Agency (YSA) of Bucks County and the Bucks County Juvenile Probation Department that seeks to accomplish restorative outcomes for juvenile offenders by encouraging the involvement of community residents, local agencies, and private sector businesses.

In 2005, the Bucks County Juvenile Probation Balanced and Restorative Justice Committee partnered with the YSA to create a competency development program which would include the five core competency domains, supported by the principles contained in the document "*Advancing Competency Development: A White Paper for Pennsylvania.*" The PROGRESS Program evolved from this joint effort and became available to juvenile offenders in Bucks County this year.

The PROGRESS Program incorporates the five core competency development domains which include: Pro-Social Skills, Moral Reasoning Skills, Academic Skills, Workforce Development Skills and Independent Living Skills. A juvenile offender who participates in the program can take part in an activity that is linked to each of the skill areas.

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Schuylkill County Adopts Truancy Policy

A survey compiled in 2005 by the Schuylkill County Juvenile Justice Department showed that 94 percent of all juveniles appearing before the court for criminal activity were experiencing some type of educational problem. In response to many of these children missing a significant amount of school, Schuylkill County President Judge William Baldwin and County Commissioner Mantura Gallagher formed a committee to review the truancy policy in order reach these at-risk students.

The committee was comprised of President Judge Baldwin, Commissioner Mantura Gallagher, two Schuylkill County juvenile probation officers, Director of Schuylkill County Children & Youth Services Gerald Campbell and three senior members of his staff, as well as three administrators from local school districts. The focus of the committee was to develop ideas for parents to utilize to encourage their children to attend school on a daily basis, and to inform the parents and students at an early age of the importance of school attendance. The committee also wanted to expedite the process of identifying at-risk children, and provide them with services to improve their school attendance. The former truancy policy was revised in an effort to reduce the amount of time that schools and the Schuylkill County children and youth agency needed to wait before initiating services.

In addition to streamlining the referral process, the committee also instituted several programs to make parents aware of the truancy problem and what it could mean for their child's future. Presentations have been made at Back to School Nights and orientation to kindergarten to inform parents of the importance of attendance and how to motivate their children to do well in school. Local physicians were also asked by the President Judge Baldwin to only provide excuses for children who received direct care for an illness.

For additional information about this project please contact: Mantura M. Gallagher, Schuylkill County Commissioner, 401 North Second Street, Pottsville, PA 17901
(570)628-1203 mgallagher@co.schuylkill.pa.us

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Objectives for juvenile offenders involved with PROGRESS include community redemption, exposure to positive role models, interaction with community leaders and volunteers, and providing an opportunity to learn skills needed for future success.

Each participant in the program is court ordered to participate as a condition of probation supervision. YSA staff provide program information, expectations, and develop a course schedule, which is divided into three phases. The first phase, "Cognitive Intervention," includes victim empathy, anger management, and decision making sessions. The second phase, "Life Skills," includes mapping your future, financial fitness, drug and alcohol awareness, adventure based activities, diversity awareness, teen driver safety education, health and disease prevention, and nutrition awareness sessions. The third phase, "Active Citizenship," includes civic education and service-learning project sessions.

In order to graduate from the program, each juvenile must successfully complete all of the applicable sessions and satisfy thirty hours of Service Learning Projects, which may include maintaining trails and recycling centers at county or state parks, and participating in technical workshops, youth mentoring sessions, and 4-H environmental awareness classes.

For additional information on the PROGRESS Program, please contact Bob Stanzione at 215-348-6514, or at rjstanzione@co.bucks.pa.us.

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Governor Rendell presented The Governor's Proclamation and Citation and provided the Keynote Address for the event. The Governor noted that, "Pennsylvania is nationally recognized as a leader in the victims' rights movement." He referenced legislation that has been enacted, and called on the legislature to continue to pass laws that enhance the rights of crime victims and improve victims' safety.

Please forward descriptions of victims' rights activities held in your jurisdiction, to Susan Blackburn, blackburn@state.pa.us These descriptions will be included in a resource guide for others seeking to replicate new and innovative approaches to celebrating National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

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.

