

2007 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

Pictures of award winners are
on pages 2 and 3

The 2007 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, co-sponsored by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, and the Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges was held October 31 - November 2, 2007 at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers. This year, approximately 1,200 individuals registered for the conference.

Professional Caucuses

The Conference began on October 31st, with an opportunity for participants to join with colleagues from their area of specialty within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system in Professional Caucuses, to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest. The following caucuses were held: Juvenile Court Masters and Juvenile Court Judges; Chief and Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officers; Juvenile Probation Supervisors; Juvenile Probation Officers; Victim Services; Service Providers; Juvenile Defenders; and Prevention. A summary of issues discussed during each of the caucuses will be included in next month's newsletter.

Youth Awards Program

The 2007 Youth Awards Program was held on Wednesday evening, October 31st, and was attended by nearly 600 people. Young people were recognized for being selected as winners in Poster, Creative Expression, and Outstanding Achievement award categories. This year's Youth Awards Speaker was Dr. Lamont Hill, who spoke passionately about his inspirational journey and being one of the youngest members of the growing body of hip-hop intellectuals in the country.

Conference Welcome and Keynote Presentation

On Thursday morning, November 1st, Judge Arthur E. Grim, Chairman of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and President Judge of the Berks County Court of Common Pleas, gave the "Conference Welcome", and noted that with its unique combination of training, professional caucuses, awards programs, and Resource Day, the annual conference is regarded as the premier state-level juvenile justice conference in the nation.

The Keynote Presentation was provided by Dr. Peter Greenwood, a nationally recognized expert in the fields of juvenile justice, delin-

2007 Conference Cont'd on Page 4

2007 JCJC Award Winners



Marietta Lamb-Mawby
Chester County
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
of the Year



Susan K. Claytor
York County
Juvenile Probation Supervisor
of the Year



James M. Wiggins
Chester County
Juvenile Probation Officer
of the Year



Eugene J. Dickert
Westmoreland County
Meritorious Service Award



Jill M. Erickson
Delaware County
Juvenile Court
Support Service Award

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.

John Cookus is the editor. Our address is CJJT&R, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299. (jcookus@state.pa.us)

2007 JCJC Award Winners



Molly Beth Rimbeck
Blair County
Victim Advocate of the Year



Andrew S. Gladfelter
Shippensburg University
Undergraduate Scholarship Award



Kristine M. Johnson
Dr. Anthony F. Ceddia Award for
Outstanding Scholarship
in Juvenile Justice



Amy L. Overly
Adelphoi Village Miller Home
Continuum of Care
Residential Program of the Year



Hon. Nancy L. Butts
Lycoming County Juvenile Drug
Treatment Court
Court-operated Program
of the Year



Craig W. Clark
Blair County Delinquency
Prevention and Reduction Project
Community-based Program
of the Year

2007 Conference Cont'd from Front Page

quency prevention and sentencing policy. He has served on the Advisory Board for the Blueprints Project, and is the founding Director of the RAND Corporation's Criminal Justice Program. Dr. Greenwood is a Fellow of the Academy of Experimental Criminology and the recipient of the August Volmer Award from the American Society of Criminology. His most recent book, published by the University of Chicago Press, is entitled *Changing Lives: Delinquency Prevention as Crime Control Policy*.

During his Keynote Presentation, "Evidence-Based Practice In Juvenile Justice: Where We Are Headed", Dr. Greenwood shared his unique perspectives on the impact and importance of utilizing evidenced-based programs and the return on investment.

Workshops

Over 700 people registered to attend fourteen different workshops, both before and after lunch on Thursday, November 1st. These twenty-eight workshops were: Assessing the Effectiveness of Specific Programs; Short-Term Residential Placement and MST: A Model for Success, Why Try? Innovative Interventions That Provide Hope and Motivate Youth, The Philadelphia Reintegration Initiative, Reporting Requirements for Child Abuse in Pennsylvania, Female Responsive Programming: From Theory to Reality, Trauma Informed Care and Juvenile Violence, Nurse-Family Partnership: Pennsylvania's Investment, The Northumberland County Cross Systems Truancy Initiative, Reducing Delinquency and Youth Drug Use Using the CTC Model, Informing Detention Decisions Through Risk Assessment: The Berks County Model, Models for Change: Pa's. Mental Health / Juvenile Justice Coordination Initiative, Pathways to Possibilities: Strengths-Based, Collaborative Restorative Justice Practice, Parenting Wisely: A Research-based, Interactive Parenting Program Lessons Learned from Implementing Evidence-Based Programs, Community Education: The Allegheny County Model, F.A.S.T. & G.R.E.A.T.: A Family-Based Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Strategy, Teaching Pro-Social Skills to Anti-Social Youth, Self-Injury: Why It Happens and What to do About It, The Bucks County P.R.O.G.R.E.S.S. Program: A Model for Community Involvement, Diversion Practices in Pennsylvania, York County JUMP Court: Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Youth in the Juvenile Justice System, The ABC's of CBT: Using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy With Delinquent Youth, Pathways to Desistance: Offending Patterns, Service Use and Re-entry in a Sample of Serious Adolescent Offenders, Best Practices For Effective Community Coalitions, Evidence-Based Delinquency Prevention: PCCD's Research-Based

Programs Initiative, Models for Change: Pa's. Disproportionate Minority Contact Initiative, Models for Change: Pa's. Aftercare Initiative.

Juvenile Defender Training

Over fifty juvenile defenders from across Pennsylvania attended the 2007 Conference on Juvenile Justice, and participated in a separate training track developed exclusively for them on Thursday, November 1st. Presentations for juvenile defenders included: The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act; Act 21 of 2003; How to Obtain an Expert Witness; and Developmentally Disabled Kids. A "Judges Roundtable" was also held at which time approximately twenty juvenile court judges joined the defenders for lunch. A panel of juvenile court judges, including Hon. Arthur E. Grim (Berks County), Hon. Kevin Hess (Cumberland County) and Hon. Thomas J. Doerr (Butler County) discussed a number of issues with the defenders including the role of the defender in juvenile court.

Thursday Afternoon Plenary Session

Robert Schwartz, Esq., Executive Director of the Juvenile Law Center, moderated the afternoon plenary session panel entitled "Pennsylvania's Models for Change Initiative: Our Role In National Juvenile Justice Reform". Panel members included Hon. Arthur Grim, President Judge, Berks County; Dr. Laurie Garduque, Director of Research at the Program on Human and Community Development of the MacArthur Foundation; Mary Gaspari, Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Coordinator of Chester County; Russell Carlino, Assistant Administrator of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Juvenile Division. During this session, panelists provided an update on current activities and a look into the future in our quest for excellence in after-care services and supports, mental health/juvenile justice system coordination, and in addressing the disproportionate involvement of minority youth in the juvenile justice system.

Annual Awards Program and Dinner

Thursday's activities concluded with the 27th Annual Awards Program and Dinner. The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers honored both individuals and programs for their outstanding work in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

During the presentation of awards, Jim Rieland, Director of Allegheny County Probation, presented Nancy Maloney with a \$10,000 contribution to the Maloney family scholarship fund in honor of the late Dennis Maloney, for his dedication and inspiration to Balanced and Restorative Justice and Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

2007 Conference Cont'd on Page 5

Inaugural Dennis M. Maloney Award

Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system lost a dear friend on February 6, 2007, when Dennis Maloney died of natural causes at age 55. Although he never lived in Pennsylvania, it can be argued that very few individuals have had a more profound impact on Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system than Denny Maloney.

Denny first began working in Pennsylvania in the 1980s, when he advocated for the principles of community protection; accountability; youth competency development; individualized assessment of each youth; and system balance – more than ten years before any legislative mandates regarding these principles.

In recognition of his profound impact on Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the Pa. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers established the Dennis M. Maloney Award, which was presented to Judge Kenneth Biehn, and which will be presented periodically to an individual who has made truly exceptional contributions to Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

Judge Biehn served on the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas from 1979 until his retirement in 2007. During his nearly 28 years on the bench, Judge Biehn helped Bucks County create and sustain one of the most highly regarded juvenile court systems in the Commonwealth. The fact that Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system emerged from the 1995 Special Session on Crime as stronger and more focused than ever before, was due in large measure to the respect that legislative leaders and the Governor's Office had for Judge Biehn.

During his career, his thoughtful and creative dispositions were not only well received by crime victims and juvenile offenders alike, but also served to educate his community about the juvenile court system and its balanced and restorative justice mission. Judge Biehn left an exceptional legacy of commitment, wisdom and dedicated public service which truly personify the ideals to which Denny Maloney devoted his life's work.

MacArthur Models for Change Forum

A forum for individuals involved with the MacArthur Foundation / Pennsylvania Models for Change initiative was held on Friday morning, November 2nd. The forum included an update from Laurie Guarduque regarding the national progress of the Models for Change initiative, a panel presentation

2007 Conference Cont'd on Last Page

Johnson Appointed Deputy Chief in Luzerne County

On October 17, 2007, President Judge Mark A. Ciavarella, Jr. appointed John E. Johnson as Deputy Chief of Juvenile Probation Administration in Luzerne County.

Mr. Johnson graduated from Bloomsburg University in 1998 with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. He earned a Master's Degree in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University in 2002.

Mr. Johnson was hired by the Luzerne County Juvenile Probation Office in 1998, where he worked as an intensive officer, community liaison officer and school-based probation officer. In 2004, he was promoted to supervisor. Since 2003, he has served as a Senior Control Tactics Instructor for both the adult and juvenile probation offices. Mr. Johnson has been involved in statewide initiatives as well, serving on the JCJC Awards Committee for the past two years.

Mr. Johnson lives in Exeter with his fiancé Naomi. It is Mr. Johnson's goal to continue to create innovative programs and services for juveniles in Luzerne County. Through his leadership, Mr. Johnson also hopes to streamline practices within the probation office to make effective use of staff and resources.



Advancing Competency Development: A Resource Guide for Pennsylvania

The National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) is currently preparing a guide to competency development curricula, programs and resources for probation departments and private providers. *Advancing Competency Development: A Resource Guide for Pennsylvania* (scheduled for dissemination in early 2008) describes competency development-supportive resources that exist in Pennsylvania communities and examples of skill training curricula that can be implemented in probation departments or community-based programs and residential placement facilities.

*Advancing Competency Development: A White Paper for Pennsylvania*¹ identifies skill training that employs a curriculum designed to improve a specific skill or set of skills and provides opportunities for youth to practice and demonstrate new skills by engaging in experiential learning experiences as the primary activity used to advance competency development. Many of the programs and curricula listed in the resource guide have been independently evaluated and are included in national registries of programs that demonstrate positive results for participants. All the programs and curricula listed have been designed to increase protective factors for at-risk youth and follow stipulated guidelines for inclusion in the resource guide.

The Five Competency Domains

The skill training programs and curricula listed in *A Resource Guide for Pennsylvania* are organized by the five core competency development domains that were identified in the *White Paper*. The five domains are areas in which one could reasonably expect young people in trouble with the law to build and demonstrate competencies depending on their ages and stages of development. Since the *White Paper* was published, two domains—Pro-Social Skills and Moral Reasoning Skills—have been refined as a result of the work of the Allegheny County Competency Development Committee and the technical assistance of National Center for Juvenile Justice staff to develop a Competency Development Assessment. These updates are included in the Skill Set definitions.

Earlier this year NCJJ conducted a survey of the

- Pro-social skills
Skill Set: Interaction, anger management, conflict resolution
- Moral reasoning skills
Skill Set: Connecting thoughts and actions; pro-social ways of thinking and behaving
- Academic skills
Skill Set: Basic proficiency in reading, writing, and math skills; study and learning skills
- Workforce development skills
Skill Set: Getting a job, keeping a job, and getting a promotion
- Independent living skills
Skill Set: Daily living skills

chief juvenile probation officers throughout Pennsylvania for information regarding both in-house and community-based curricula they use for their youth. NCJJ is now conducting a survey of Pennsylvania providers—both community-based programs and residential placement facilities—to identify commercially-produced skill-training curricula they use that are designed to help probation-involved youth acquire knowledge and skills in any of the five domains.

NCJJ continues to acquire information about curricula for inclusion in the resource guide, and would like to see many private providers complete the Competency Development Curricula Survey. The information in this survey will be kept in the strictest confidence and NCJJ will use any information provided solely to access commercially available curricula that may be of interest to juvenile justice practitioners in Pennsylvania.

The online private provider survey is simple to complete—just a few clicks of the mouse—and takes only a few minutes for each curriculum questionnaire. The survey may be accessed on the [survey monkey website](#).

NCJJ thanks you in advance for your interest in contributing to the resource guide, which will benefit youth in Pennsylvania. For more information, contact [Mary Hunninen](#) at 412-227-6950.

¹Torbet, P. and Thomas, D. (2005). *Advancing Competency Development: A White Paper for Pennsylvania*. Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice.

Weaving Our Community Threads

by Susan Goss, Venango County Juvenile Court Supervision Services

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the implementation of Balanced and Restorative Justice, the Venango County Juvenile Court implemented a project called Weaving Our Community Threads, an effective court and community collaboration. One of the primary principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice includes a partnership between the juvenile justice system and the community. Weaving Our Community Threads began with the concept that community service projects were to serve as service learning and include a partnership between the court and the community. Service learning enables the youth involved to plan the implementation of a community service project. At the end of a project, the youth report on what went well, what could be improved, and the next step the group may need to perform to complete their project.



There were three projects completed over the past year. The first project was entering a float into the 2006 Oil Heritage Parade recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's inclusion of Balanced and Restorative Justice principles in the Juvenile Act. There were 25 youth from Court Supervision Services, 4 youth from Youth Alternatives, and 1 youth from the Second Presbyterian Church. The youth completed 418 hours of community service, which included researching the countries where Restorative Justice has its roots. Eight adults from Court Supervision Services, Youth Alternatives, retired senior volunteers, and the Barrow Civic Theater assisted. Agway graciously provided shrubs for the float. The float won first place in the juvenile category.

The second project was a revitalization of Hasson Park and included building a new walk way, replacing the brick patio in the Rhododendron Arboretum and placing new benches at the patio, planting perennial beds, mulching the play areas, installing a drainage system behind the Arboretum, stream bed stabilization, painting, brush clean up; and improvement of the grill areas. The revitalization project consisted of 108 youth from Court Supervision Services, 32 youth from Youth Alternatives, 1 Eagle Scout, and several youth from the community who just wanted to help. The hours worked by Court Supervision youth were 1,129 and the hours worked by Youth Alternatives youth were 107. There were 29 adults who volunteered 305 hours supervising and mentoring the youth from the Oil City Public Works Department, the Oil City Garden Club, Youth Alternatives, Court Supervision Services, Second Presbyterian Church, Christ Episcopal Church, First Baptist Church, Master Gardeners, and Seneca Lawn and Garden, Americorp, Child Care Information Services, and Kosak and Associates, Safe Kids Coalition, and several independent community adults.

The community picnic was the third project. The theme of the picnic was "Old Fashion Fun". The picnic was to provide an opportunity for the community to see the improvements made at the park, experience a good time without spending any money, and recognize the youth who had made the improvements. The activities at the picnic included: a chalk board mural; soccer; a velcro wall; hobo golf; box hockey; bocce ball; horse shoes; field events; egg toss; water balloon toss; face painting; and various arts and crafts. In addition to the activities, entertainment was provided by the Sweet Adelines, Fireside Quartet, and the Allegheny String Band. It was a beautiful day and there were 238 people registered. There were a number of youth from Youth Alternatives who performed radio commercials and distributed flyers prior to the event.

Chester County Hosts Juvenile Justice Week Event

by Diana Munson, Programs Manager, Chester County



Intake Supervisor Dawn Thomforde at Podium

Chester County's fifth annual Juvenile Justice Week Recognition Ceremony began with the Honorable John L. Hall, Supervising Juvenile Court Judge, welcoming distinguished guests, including the county commissioners, judges and county department heads. The ceremony was held on Thursday, October 4, 2007, in Courtroom 1 of the Historic Chester County Courthouse in recognition of Governor Rendell's proclamation announcing Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice Week beginning September 30, 2007. Also in attendance were representatives from county and community agencies, service providers and community members.

This annual event focused on the changing roles within the juvenile justice system and highlighted the diversity of roles of a juvenile probation officer. Probation Officers Kristin Lincoln, Jeremiah Van Orden, John Barr, Jacquelyn Taylor as well as Rich Lennon and Dawn Thomforde, both recently promoted to supervisors, spoke about their roles within the programs that have been developed to support the goals of Balanced and Restorative Justice within the juvenile probation department. These programs include: Impact of Crime Groups; the Restitution Program; School Based and Specialized Probation; Victim/Witness and Aftercare.

Also, during the ceremony, the second annual George M. Bratcher, III, Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year Award was presented. The award is named after long-time juvenile probation employee George M. Bratcher, III, and recognizes an outstanding Juvenile Probation Officer who demonstrates dedication to the youth and families of

Chester County and has made a positive impact upon the department and the community. This year's recipient was Jacquelyn C. Taylor, a juvenile probation officer within the Community Service Department. The ceremony concluded with the swearing in of the Juvenile Probation Officers by the Honorable Paula Francisco Ott.

Weaving Cont'd from Page 7

Certificates of appreciation were presented to 22 youth under the jurisdiction of Court Supervision Services by Miles Truitt, Jr., Oil City Public Works Department, for completing 24 or more hours of work in the park restoration.

All three of these activities were planned by the youth of Court Supervision Services and Youth Alternatives under the direction of Susan Goss and Deb Kapp, who is an Americorp volunteer with Court Supervision Services. A grant application was approved by the Human Service Fund to support the activities. This was a multigenerational grant requiring the youth from the court and the community to work with various adults from the community. The picnic was funded by a grant given to Youth Alternatives from the Elizabeth S. Black Fund.

One of the goals of a service learning project is to develop competencies in our youth. Through these activities, the youth experienced problem solving techniques, working as a team, goal setting, time management, carpentry, brick laying, developing a relationship with adults from the community, and most importantly being recognized as an asset by the community. Court Supervision Services and Youth Alternatives have received numerous requests to perform all three projects again next year. These projects have truly been excellent examples of how court and community collaboration can restore the community.

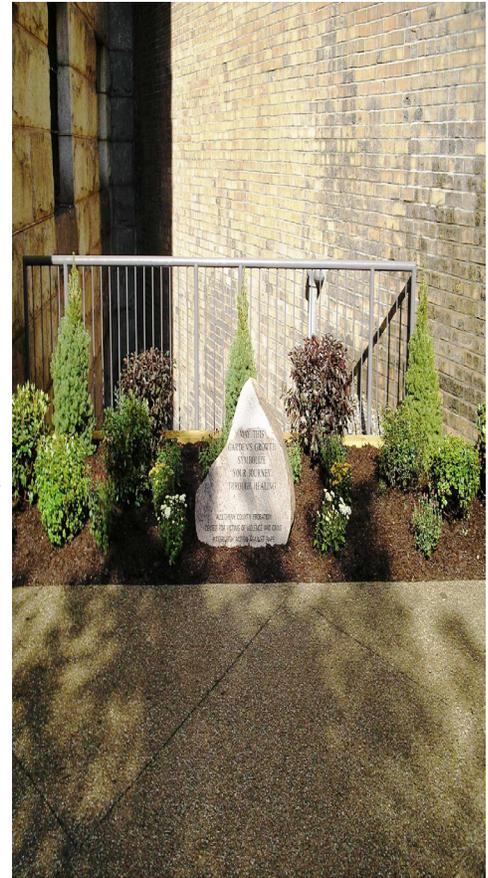
A Garden Grows in Pittsburgh

By Thomas O'Connor – Allegheny County Probation Officer

Allegheny County's Victims Garden

During Juvenile Justice week we have the opportunity as judges, court professionals, probation officers, victim advocates and support staff to be reminded of our responsibility to the citizens of Allegheny County, the youth and families we serve, and the victims of crime. Balanced and Restorative Justice teaches us to build youth competencies, protect the community in which we all live, and to attempt to restore the victim physically, mentally and financially to their pre-crime status. The Center for Victims of Violence and Crime (CVVC) reported in their 2005-2006 annual report that 10,026 victims were served in Allegheny County and, of those, 67% were victims or witnesses and 33% were significant others of victims. Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR), a leader in rape crisis for over 35 years, has reached over 17,000 individuals each year to raise awareness of sexual violence through their community education campaign.

With the Balanced and Restorative Justice seed planted, a garden was cultivated in the courtyard at The Allegheny County Juvenile Court. Probation, along with CVVC as well as PAAR, collaborated on a project that would be a perpetual reminder of why we do our jobs, something that would give comfort to the victims we serve and give the youth involved with committing crime the opportunity to give back to the community while understanding how they harmed members of their communities.



Two weeks prior to Juvenile Justice Week, four youth from the Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP), along with staff, cleared an area in the courtyard of rocks and debris. Scott McMurdy, a school-based probation officer with experience in landscaping designed the garden and was instrumental in obtaining the material needed and supervising the project. The youth spread four yards of dirt and planted numerous shrubs and flowers in the garden. The Center and PAAR purchased a beautiful granite marker from Donatelli Memorials. This substantial stone anchors the Garden and reminds us of its permanency with the inscription: “ May this garden’s growth symbolize your journey through healing.”

This project was planted by youth on probation and will be maintained by youth on probation. It will serve as a constant reminder of their victims and will give them an understanding of how their actions affect the community as well as a sense of pride in knowing they had a part in maintaining such a beautiful and peaceful place. It will also give the victims a reminder that they are not forgotten. On October 1, 2007, the garden was dedicated. There were over 100 people in attendance including Family Court Judges, hearing officers, court administration, probation officers, victim advocates and youth from the courts CISP Program. Director Jim Rieland thanked the Community Education Initiative and the Center for Victims of Violence and Crime, as well as Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, in their support of the Victim Garden project. Also acknowledged were Mike Krostyne of Grubb and Ellis and the CISP youth who participated in the preparation and planting of the garden.

Administrative Judge Kim Berkeley Clark addressed those in attendance and reminded them to keep in mind the victims as we walk past this garden thinking about the day ahead and the tasks we need to do, to take a minute to think about the victims we serve and what they need to do to continue with their lives. While the hearing might be over, the memory of the incident and its effects continue for some. She read a favorite poem from Maya Angelou “Still I Rise” as a metaphor for the victims’ struggle to move on despite the difficulty.

Garden Cont'd on Last Page

Alternative Rehabilitation Communities Holds Youth Anti-Gun Violence Summit

By Christine Malone, Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Supervisor

On October 2, 2007, the Executive Director of Alternative Rehabilitation Communities (ARC), Daniel Elby, conducted a Youth Anti-Gun Violence Summit in Harrisburg. The audience included nearly 200 ARC students and staff, students and staff from the Schaffner Youth Center and the local Abraxas Day Treatment Program. The purpose of the day-long program was to explore how gun violence affects teenagers as perpetrators, victims, and bystanders. Alternatives to youth gun violence were also discussed.

This summit was one of many activities developed by ARC as a result of a 2006 request from the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Office for all of its providers to enhance the counseling, education, and activities related to youth gun violence. ARC quickly determined that this was a significant need for all of their students regardless of where the student lives, and regardless of whether the juvenile court petition includes gun related offenses.

The Master of Ceremonies for the day was Dr. Ronald Sharp, Psychologist for ARC. The agenda for the ARC Youth Anti-Gun Violence Summit included remarks from Daniel P. Elby, Chief Executive Officer of ARC, Stephen Suknaic, Director of Dauphin County Juvenile Probation; Michelle Stackfield, Dauphin County Victim/Witness Program, Hon. Richard A. Lewis, President Judge of Dauphin County; Hon. John F. Cherry, Juvenile Court Judge of Dauphin County, Hon. Nick DiFrancesco, Dauphin County Commissioner, Hon. George Hartwick, Dauphin County Commissioner, and keynote speaker Graham Hetrick, Dauphin County Coroner.

Students performed anti-gun violence skits, rap songs and many read poems on the impact of guns. Several of the students gave testimonials on how guns and violence have affected their lives. During the summit, Dan Elby asked the students to stand if they responded "yes" to several questions. Mr. Elby asked the students four questions regarding gun violence and the effect it had on their families and friends. To everyone's amazement 95% of the students stood up. This response supported the perspective of the widespread impact of gun violence on the students and their communities.

President Judge Richard A. Lewis stressed the consequences of gun violence for juveniles who are transferred or "direct filed" into adult court. He explained that Pennsylvania now has tougher sentencing guidelines for adults pertaining to gun related charges. Judge John F. Cherry stated that there is nothing funny about gun violence and that it is time to take the matter seriously. He told the students to focus on listening to those people who matter to them and he challenged them to do what is right. Commissioners Nick DiFrancesco and George Hartwick gave very inspirational speeches, encouraging the students to find someone or something in their lives that motivates them to do the right thing. They talked about holding on to their dreams and working hard to accomplish them. They stressed the importance of taking advantage of the tools and information they were given at the summit.

The presentation of Graham Hetrick, keynote speaker and Dauphin County Coroner, was entitled "Doors". He stated that individual doors represent opportunities that people have throughout their lives. He shared his life story and how each time he had an opportunity, he took advantage of it by opening another door in his life. All of the opened doors gave him so many more choices on what he wanted to do with his life. He also told the students that you have to have hope, believe in yourself and change the way you think to make opportunities happen. He concluded his presentation stating, "you are put here for a reason, now go out and find out why you were put here." The coroner also showed several very graphic gun autopsy photos during his power point presentation.

Later the students were asked to sign an Anti-Gun Violence Pledge. The pledge was written by an ARC student and selected by a panel of judges as the winner. The student received a check for \$50.00 and led the group in reading the pledge. The personal commitment by the students to reject gun violence was a tangible step towards addressing the problem. Due to the success of this first Anti-Gun Violence Summit, Mr. Elby is considering additional summits in future years.

Director of Residential Services Announced

The Tioga County Department of Human Services announced the promotion of Sandi Garrison to the position of Director of the Residential Services Department. Ms. Garrison is a veteran employee of the department, and began her employment with Tioga County in July, 1988 as a Child Care Worker. Ms. Garrison then transitioned to supervisor of the Bridge Housing, Independent Living, Foster Care and the Residential Treatment Programs.

Ms. Garrison is a graduate of Mansfield University, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.



2007 Conference Cont'd from Page 5

and discussion on education and workforce development, and a discussion about the progress of Pennsylvania's Models for Change initiative.

Resource Day

The 2007 Annual Conference on Juvenile Justice concluded with Resource Day. Conference participants had the opportunity to learn about new, innovative, and creative approaches to working with juveniles. Representatives from private and public residential programs, informational services, technology services, and other vendors were available to present information and discuss products and services.

Garden Cont'd from Page 9

Judge Beth Lazzara told a riveting story of her experience as a victim five years ago. While she was running on a dark fall morning in a neighborhood where she felt safe, she was attacked. As she was running by a van, she noticed a man leaning into it. As she ran by, the man attempted to grab her and put her into a van. She fought him off by screaming and kicking and never giving up. She stated that with all the physical training and self-defense classes you might have taken, you never expect to be a victim. She also explained the fear she had to address. Fear that he would return, fear she would have to fight him again, and fear that he would take her and never be found. Judge Lazzara indicated that through working with CVVC and talking about the experience, she gained a sense of empowerment and used that drive to make a difference and became a candidate for Judge.

Stephanie Welsh, Executive Director of CVVC, and Laura Randolph both addressed the crowd in the courtyard and indicated that Allegheny County is very progressive in dealing with victims and also lucky to have so many support services for its victims.

Just as the garden flowers continue to grow despite bad weather, lack of nourishment and people stepping on them, so do victims continue to grow as adversity challenges them in their everyday lives..... and "still they rise ".

