

Press Release

ModelsforChange

Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

Jim Anderson Honored as Champion for Change in Juvenile Justice Reform

One of Only Four Honorees Nationwide to Receive Distinction

Harrisburg, PA (December 9, 2008) – James E. Anderson, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), was honored by Models for Change Pennsylvania for his work on policy and legislation aimed at improving conditions and outcomes for court-involved youth. He was one of four honorees that received the inaugural **Champions for Change** distinction. The Champions were chosen by colleagues in their own states for national recognition at the annual meeting of Models for Change leaders. They stand out among the many who are working hard to bring about the kind of reform that is reflected in better lives for so many young people in this country. Anderson was recognized at a luncheon of juvenile justice reformers from across the country at the Third Annual Models for Change national conference in Washington, D.C. on December 9, 2008.

Among his successes is his work with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. JCJC and the Chief's Council engaged all 67 Pennsylvania counties in the aftercare reform effort which will result in a closer alignment between juvenile probation and residential program providers leading to better planning and outcomes for youth returning home after placement. Most recently he was instrumental in the passage of legislation promoting mental health services for delinquent youth by protecting them from self incrimination for comments made during screening, assessment and evaluation. *cont'd on page 2*



Pictured from left to right: Robert Schwartz, Executive Director of the Juvenile Law Center; James E. Anderson, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission; and Julia Stasch, Vice President of the Program on Human & Community Development.

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“As the Executive Director of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, Jim Anderson has been an invaluable leader of the Models for Change initiative in Pennsylvania,” says Robert Schwartz, Executive Director, Juvenile Law Center. “With Jim’s leadership and commitment, JCJC’s contributions to the Models for Change effort have gone well beyond anyone’s expectations.”

Anderson has been the Executive Director of the JCJC for over 22 years. “Jim and JCJC have made a vital impact in the policy and legislative arena,” adds Schwartz. “Because of him, we have access to legislators on both sides of the aisle. He solves problems in a remarkably effective way, with unerring instincts and unmatched decency.”

Models for Change efforts in Pennsylvania are coordinated by the Juvenile Law Center, a Philadelphia-based public interest law firm that has been advocating for children in jeopardy since 1975.

Models for Change Pennsylvania is part of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s \$120 million Models for Change national initiative to reform juvenile justice across the country. Sixteen states are now involved – four “core” states working on a range of state and local reforms, including Pennsylvania, Washington, Illinois, and Louisiana – and 12 as part of three action networks focusing on disproportionate minority contact, mental health and juvenile indigent defense.

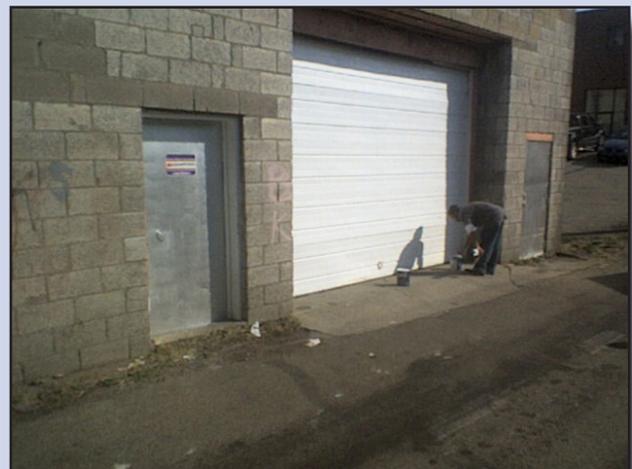
About Models for Change

[The Models for Change](http://www.modelsforchange.net) initiative is an effort to create successful and replicable models of juvenile justice system reform through targeted investments in key states. With long-term funding and support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Models for Change seeks to accelerate progress toward a more rational, fair, effective and developmentally appropriate juvenile justice system. www.modelsforchange.net

- Before and After -

Michael M. Blatz, Crew Instructor, Abraxas WorkBridge Program

Several youth from Allegheny County spent a day painting over graffiti at a business in Pittsburgh. One of the young men responsible for part of the damage was ordered by Judge Kathleen R. Mulligan to perform community service and pay restitution. Additionally, and separately, he was ordered to remedy his “artwork” by painting over it. His probation officer, Christine Lisko, enlisted the Cornell Abraxas Community Repair Crew to spend a Saturday morning helping the young man. It was a win-win project all the way!



Conference Caucuses Offer Forum for Discussion

Participants in the 2008 Conference on Juvenile Justice had an opportunity to join with colleagues from their area of specialty within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest.

Approximately thirty **Juvenile court judges and juvenile court masters** discussed a wide variety of issues including: juvenile court jurisdiction and Department of Public Welfare policy regarding juveniles in placement who are charged with crimes; the statute of limitations for allegations of delinquency and relevant case law; inter-county transfer of delinquency cases, including the collection of fines, costs and restitution, juveniles in custody, the transmission of written records, recommendations from one court to another, and the [JCJC Standards Governing the Inter-county Transfer of Delinquency Cases](#).

Over 35 **chief juvenile Probation officers** and deputy chiefs discussed the decline in referrals that some counties are experiencing. Participants surmised that the decline may be due to a number of variables such as age group demographics, or turnover of law enforcement personnel where a high number of referrals are usually received. It was also suggested that the implementation of evidenced-based programs may have already impacted referrals, as well. There was some discussion about county practices regarding de-certification issues, and it was clear that practices varied greatly among counties at all stages of the process. Some juveniles charged with direct file offenses are placed in juvenile detention centers and juvenile probation officers have involvement at the beginning of the process. Other counties do not get involved until a ruling is made on the de-certification. Some juvenile probation departments are directed to develop a report and/or testify at the de-certification hearing. One county has an administrative order that "fast tracks" de-certification hearings. Some counties have only one judge that conducts de-certification hearings. There was consensus that there should be standard policies regarding de-certification procedures throughout the Commonwealth.

Other topics discussed by the chiefs and deputy chiefs included: reimbursement rates for programs and services; offenders with gang affiliation; the impact of current and future

budget cuts; utilization of PaJCMS to develop a case plan for offenders; identifying programs with positive results through the outcome measures reporting process; and current research on recidivism of juvenile offenders through JNET.

More than 25 **juvenile probation supervisors** initially reviewed the issues that caucus participants discussed five years earlier, in 2003, and how those topics compared with what is of relevance in 2008. Many topics were covered including: family involvement and the use of Family Group Decision Making; the negative impact that budget cuts have had on service delivery; the positive impact that the MacArthur Models for Change initiative has had on aftercare services; shorter lengths of stay at out-of-home placements; and the increased use of screening and assessment tools. Some counties reported a dramatic increase in "failure to adjust" discharges from residential placements due primarily to mental health issues or assaultive behavior. Other juvenile probation departments have seen an increase in female sex offenders and expressed a need for treatment programming for this population. There remains an on-going need for mental health services, and the use of drugs and alcohol remain a huge concern, including an increase in juvenile use of hallucinogens such as mushrooms. Participants reported that they are hearing and learning more about evidenced-based programs. Video conferencing is in use in some counties, and much discussion occurred regarding the potential impact of Adam Walsh legislation in Pennsylvania.

The **juvenile probation officers** discussed gaps in services for juveniles who require out-of-home placement, as well as the need for additional community-based services. It was specifically suggested that programs were needed for transgender males, juveniles with medical issues such as hemophilia, and additional programs for female offenders who are pregnant or who have children. Unfortunately, it was reported that the lack of bilingual staff at some facilities has resulted in juveniles placed in "less appropriate" residential programs. The juvenile probation officers also discussed the managed care funding process for mental health placements and the negative impact that

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Conference Caucuses Offer Forum for Discussion - *cont'd from page 3*

the added paperwork has had on supervision of offenders. One county has staff whose primary responsibility is to complete managed care paperwork and attend related meetings, when necessary.

The juvenile probation officers spent some time discussing how probation officer recommendations are impacted by financial and judicial considerations. The lack of funding and the lack of services in some jurisdictions have resulted in longer detention stays.

The **victim service providers** discussed data from a statewide survey of victims. The data will be used to study the need for a victims' rights compliance agency, but results are not yet available. Participants discussed what they believe has become a new trend with insurance companies: denying payment for injuries related to criminal acts. Some victims have been denied payment for medical treatment because injuries were caused by an intentional act. Several of the fifteen caucus participants reported that residential service providers have focused less on victim-related issues; not because of a lack of interest, but rather because of diminishing resources and other required mandates. It was also mentioned by a few participants that some jurisdictions offer little incentive for victim participation in court hearings, and that it appears as though more juveniles are opting for formal hearings in the hopes that victims will not attend or testify. Parking, childcare and low mileage reimbursement rates were reported as barriers to victim participation. Participants were pleased with the results of the juvenile justice outcome measures, including restitution collection, contributions to the crime victims' compensation fund and the number of juveniles completing a victim awareness curriculum. Like so many other programs, victim service providers are experiencing cuts to funds which support local victim service programs, and are working with advocates and legislators in an effort to minimize or eliminate such spending cuts.

Participants in the **prevention** caucus discussed new prevention initiatives occurring statewide. The Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Support Center (EpisCenter), created by PCCD's Office of

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention was also discussed. According to PCCD's website, the [Resource Center](#) is intended to support the creation of prevention and intervention programs aimed at promoting positive youth development and preventing violence, delinquency, substance abuse and other problem behaviors in children and adolescents. The EpisCenter is a collaborative effort that includes the Department of Public Welfare, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Departments of Education and Health, as well as grantees and community-based and residential service providers. The EpisCenter is one of three on-going prevention initiatives, including Communities that Care, and a local juvenile justice quality improvement initiative through the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

Participants in the caucus for **service providers** focused much of their discussion on staff retention, professional development and keeping employees happy. The providers are concerned about the impact of the restraint reduction effort, and other DPW initiatives, on direct care staff. The importance of communication with employees was emphasized, as well as empowering them by allowing employees to air concerns and offer suggestions. Positive reinforcement to both staff and the juveniles they serve has been beneficial. Programs such as intramural sports, arts, music, poetry, writing circles, theatre, and yoga have been integrated into programs with great success. Caucus participants discussed their reasons for being in the juvenile justice field, and their efforts to remain optimistic in delivering quality services and, put simply, making a difference in the lives of kids. The routine meetings of providers and chief juvenile probation officers have served to improve relationships.

Feedback from each of the caucuses showed that professionals appreciated the opportunity to meet with colleagues, and to share experiences about what they encounter on a day to day basis. A summary of the information collected will be reviewed by JCJC staff and the Executive Committee of the Pa. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

Venango County Juvenile Court Sponsors Open House

By Susan Goss, Juvenile Justice Community Liaison

In Venango County, Juvenile Justice Week was celebrated by hosting an open house at the Cranberry Mall. The purpose was to provide an opportunity for the community to see partnership between numerous agencies and our juvenile justice system, as well as to highlight the progress that has been made in implementing Balanced and Restorative Justice. Both Court Supervision Services and Venango County Mental Health representatives made presentations during the event.

There were numerous displays that showcased juvenile justice programs, including the different types and level of juvenile supervision, community service learning, the work restitution program, Victim /Community Awareness classes, the Venango County report card, and Feus (Court Supervision Services K 9). Also on display were: the YMCA's NYPUM program; the flags made by the youth of Venango County at the Focus On Our Future Youth Forums sponsored by the Healthy Community Healthy Youth Task Force; Youth Alternatives' Steps to Tomorrow and Skill Builders; 360 Mentor Center; Venango Training and Development Work Force Investments; Child to Family Connections' Family Group Decision Making and Connected by 25 truancy programs; Restorative Community Group Conferencing; and Mars Home for Youth MST program. Representing their partnership were the Oil City Area School District's superintendent, Franklin Police Department, Venango County Mental Health, Venango County Substance Abuse, the Second Presbyterian Church, and Prevent/Protect Change Violence-Free Network victim's services. These were only a small representation of the various community partners.

There was a coloring contest for small children and a poster contest aimed at writing a positive message on Court Supervision Services based on the theme "A Force for Positive Change". The evening ended with a contest for who could guess the number of trees the juvenile probation youth mulched at Hasson Park this past summer during their service learning project. The winner received a gasoline gift card. The event was viewed as a success by everyone who attended with hopes that it will be expanded next year.



Spring Staff Development Schedule Released



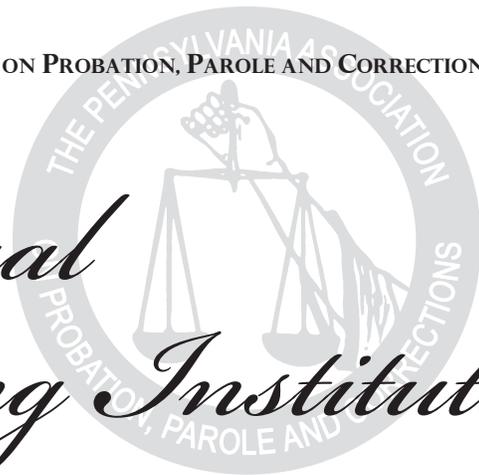
The CJJT&R Spring 2009 Staff Development Schedule has recently been posted on the web and all 25 programs are open to registration. The printed schedule will be distributed in the coming weeks. Nine programs include new trainers or content designs never before offered by the Center. Several programs are likely to fill early.

We would like to draw your attention to three programs being held early in the season including "Meth Lab Training for Probation Officers" on February 19-20 at the Holiday Inn Mechanicsburg; "Shame-based Anger in Adolescence" on March 4-5, and a "Forum for Supervisors and Training Coordinators on the Mentoring of New JPOs" on March 5-6, both in State College. For details on any of these programs, or to review the entire schedule visit www.jcjc.state.pa.us and click on training—spring 2009.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION, PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS

88th Annual Training Institute



Achieving Success And Identifying Solutions: Making Progress



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2009 CALL FOR PRESENTERS
PROPOSALS ARE DUE BY February 13, 2009

PAPPC invites you to submit topics for consideration on subjects that will help juvenile and adult criminal justice practitioners and related service providers deal more effectively with the challenges of today's workplace. Workshops will explore winning strategies, promising practices and Evidence-Based Practice in the field of adult and juvenile, county and state probation, parole and institutional care. Systems approaches to addressing public safety, cross system networking, treatment and victim concerns will be appreciated. Topics can include the following: Institutions, Adult Probation and Parole, Juvenile Probation, Administration and Management Issues, Academic and Research, Terrorism and Critical Instance Response, Victim Advocacy and Awareness, Offender Treatment, and other relevant topics.

PROPOSAL FORM

Please attach this form to the front of your submission. More than one proposal is acceptable.

Person submitting Proposal:

Name: _____

Company/ Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Presentation Title: _____

Presenter name (s), Title (s), Licensing (i.e., Ph.D. LSW), Organization (s): _____

Length of Presentation (check one): 1½ hrs. 3 hrs. 6 hrs.

I have enclosed the following:

- 200 word description of topic on 8½" x 11" paper**
- Objectives of Presentation**
- An outline of the presentation**
- Biographies of presenters**
- Audio/Visual Needs:** _____

Presenter Agreement:

If this proposal is accepted by PAPPC, the undersigned guarantees that he/she is the sole proprietor of this material, that no proprietary rights or copyrights belonging to any other person exits. The undersigned further agrees to deliver in advance, to the Program Committee the proposed session materials and handouts. The undersigned agrees that no fees or reimbursement of expenses will be paid by PAPPC unless agreed upon otherwise.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail, fax or email by February 15, 2009 to:

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Act 134 of 2008

Permits Expungement of Summary Offenses

HB 1543(4489) was signed into law by Governor Rendell on November 26, 2008, and becomes effective on January 26, 2009. [Act 134](#) amended 18 Pa. C.S. §9122 (b) (relating to expungement), to provide that summary offenses may be expunged if an individual has been free from arrest or prosecution for five years following conviction for the summary offense. This applies to the cases of minors, as well as adults, who have been convicted of summary offenses.

Act 134 also amended §9122 (b.1) to add violations of 18 Pa. C.S. §3127 (relating to indecent exposure) to the list of offenses where an expungement is not permitted by the court where the defendant was placed on Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition and where the victim is under 18 years of age. §9122 (c) was amended to require that the prosecuting attorney and the Pennsylvania State Police Central Repository maintain a list of the names and other criminal history record information of persons where the court has ordered an expungement under §9122. The information will be used solely for the purposes of determining subsequent eligibility for any pre-trial or post-trial diversion or probation program, identifying persons in criminal investigations or determining the grading of subsequent offenses. The information must be made available to any court or law enforcement agency upon request.

Alternative Rehabilitation Communities Hosts 2008 Youth Anti-Gun Violence Summit

As Daniel Elby, CEO of Alternative Rehabilitation Communities (ARC), asked approximately 200 ARC students to respond to a series of gun-related questions by standing, the responses were overwhelming. From having committed gun-related offenses to knowing someone who has been the victim of a gun-related offense to knowing a peer who carries a gun, more than 90% of the students were standing by the end of this exercise. It is with this understanding of the prevalence of gun-related activities among youth, that ARC hosted its second Youth Anti-Gun Violence Summit on October 7, 2008 at the National Guard Armory in Harrisburg. With strong support from the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Department – which first requested all its providers to enhance the counseling, education, and activities related to youth gun violence in 2006 – this program explored how gun violence affects teenagers as perpetrators, victims, and bystanders, and provided alternatives to youth gun violence. The program was also designed “to get their [students’] ideas on what can be done to lessen and eliminate the problem of gun violence”, noted Stephen Suknaic, Director of Dauphin County Juvenile Probation.

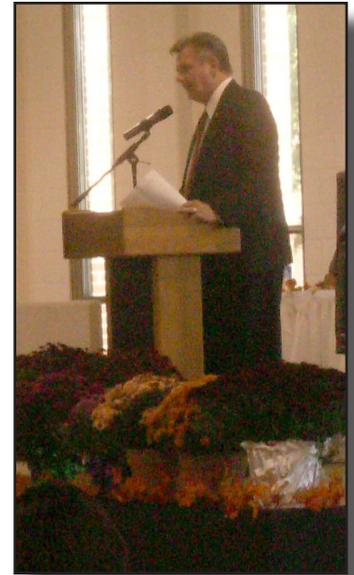


Anti-Gun Violence Summit - cont'd from page 8

With Dr. Ronald Sharp, Psychologist for ARC and Chair of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJJPC) of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD), again serving as Master of Ceremonies, the day featured remarks by several county and state-level stakeholders. In addition to Mr. Elby, the following local leaders were present to provide information on gun violence to the students and to encourage them to avoid this deadly path: Michael Pennington, Director of PCCD's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; James Anderson, Executive Director of JCJC; Stephen Suknaic; the Honorable John Cherry, Dauphin County Juvenile Court Judge; the Honorable Nick DiFrancesco, Dauphin County Commissioner; and the Honorable George Hartwick, Dauphin County Commissioner.

The keynote speaker for the day was Graham Hetrick, Dauphin County Coroner. His presentation entitled "Doors" emphasized the many doors (opportunities) that each student encounters in life. He gave examples of the many doors that he was able to open in his life which enabled his success, and encouraged students to be aware of and open the doors in their lives. He also provided some very sobering information on the effects of gun violence by showing a slideshow of autopsies of gunshot victims.

The most inspiring portion of the program, of course, was provided by the ARC students. Students from each of the ARC programs providing thought-provoking perspectives on gun violence, delivered in various creative formats ranging from dramatic skits to rap songs to testimonials to poetry readings. There was also an artistic expression competition and the winners' entries were prominently displayed throughout the day.



Anti-Gun Violence Summit - cont'd from page 9

At the end of the day, students were asked to sign an Anti-Gun Violence Pledge which was written by an ARC student. The personal commitment by the students to reject gun violence was a tangible step towards addressing the problem. The ARC family hopes to make this program an annual event because, in the words of Daniel Elby, "you can't do enough to help them [students] understand the importance of this issue and the only way to help them understand that importance is to continuously educate them".



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Ron Sharp; Stephen Suknaic; Daniel Elby; James Anderson; Michael Pennington.

Bulletin Analyzes Co-occurrence of Substance-Related Behaviors

Reprint from JUVJUST, an OJJDP news service

The [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) (OJJDP) has published "[Co-occurrence of Substance Use Behaviors in Youth](#)."

The bulletin draws on data from the National Longitudinal Study of Youth to analyze the prevalence and overlap of substance-related behaviors among youth. The central finding of this analysis is that given one substance-related behavior, other substance-related behaviors become more likely.

Resources: "Co-occurrence of Substance Use Behaviors in Youth" is available online only at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=241031>.

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 e-mail or on a disk. We particularly enjoy your photographs.

Stephen Bishop - Editor; Chris Heberlig - Graphic Design & Layout.

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