

## Act 76 Amends Juvenile Act

Governor Rendell signed SB 1156 (1576) into law as [Act 76](#) of 2007 on December 18, 2007.

Act 76, which became effective on January 1, 2008, amends the Juvenile Act at 42 Pa. C.S. §6336.1, (relating to notice and hearing), to provide that a child's foster parent, preadoptive parent or relative providing care for the child now has the "right," rather than opportunity, to be heard at any hearing under the Juvenile Act. It also amended §6351 (e) (1) (relating to permanency hearings), to provide that in any permanency hearing held with respect to the child, the court must consult with the child regarding the child's permanency plan in a manner appropriate to the child's age and maturity. If the court does not consult personally with the child, the court is required to ensure that the views of the child regarding the permanency plan have been ascertained to the fullest extent possible and communicated to the court by the guardian ad litem or, as appropriate to the circumstances of the case, by the child's counsel, the court-appointed special advocate or other person as designated by the court.

The amendments to §6351 (e)(1) contained in Act 76 also apply to the "permanency hearing" phase of a disposition review hearing in a delinquency case, to ensure federal funding to offset the cost of the child's placement under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

# Chiefs Celebrate 40 Years of Service

By Andy DeAngelo

**O**n November 29th, 2007 the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers celebrated 40 years of service at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College, Pennsylvania. Several hundred active and retired professionals in the juvenile justice system attended this event. Governor Ed Rendell cited the Council, in a Proclamation, as a model for the nation for its commitment to excellent service to young people and crime victims. The Council was initially formed for the promotion and development of juvenile probation services in Pennsylvania. The objectives of this organization include the review and development of best practice standards, including: juvenile probation staff training; juvenile probation officer caseload size; outcomes for delinquent children; and research projects. The first organizational meeting was held November 14, 1967, in State College, by acting chairman, Mercer County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Willis Brinker.

The event was planned by Berks County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Robert N. Williams, and other members of the Council. Bruce A. Grim, retired Berks County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and a past president of the Council, presided as Master of Ceremonies for this event. Guest speakers for this occasion included: Judge Arthur E. Grim, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC); James E. Anderson, Executive Director of the JCJC; Steven B. Custer, Montgomery County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and President of the Council; as well as several past presidents. During his remarks, retired Chief Brinker noted that there were limited resources in the 1960's for juvenile probation officers. Through the efforts of the Council, improved services for juvenile offenders were a direct result. From inception, the Council has been, and continues to be, an active and vocal organization.

The Council has a strong relationship with the judges and staff of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. The partnership with JCJC has been an important factor in many of the major events that have transpired during the Council's 40 year history. In 1972, the Council and JCJC jointly influenced the amendments to the Pennsylvania Juvenile Act and the development of appropriate residential programs for delinquent youth. These organizations also worked together on juvenile court

and detention standards, the graduate program at Shippensburg University and the implementation and training for juvenile probation staff throughout the Commonwealth. In 1995, during a special session of the legislature, twelve laws were enacted amending the Juvenile Act including the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice. These principles ensure accountability, community protection and competency development within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. Council members and JCJC staff provided the impetus for the inclusion of these principles, as well as the emphasis for victim involvement in the juvenile court process. The Council has also supported the efforts to define and report system outcomes on both local and state levels to the public.

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)

# Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers 40th Anniversary Celebration



**First Row (L to R):** John E. Johnson, Chief, Luzerne County, Larr Mason, Former Chief, Westmoreland County, Edward R. Robbins, Chief, Lycoming County, William J. Rossnock, Chief, Northumberland County, Richard Steele, Former Chief, Northumberland County, Steven Custer, Chief, Montgomery County, Lawrence J. DeMooy, Chief, Delaware County, Robert Williams, Chief, Berks County, Samuel E. Miller, Jr., Chief, Cumberland County.

**Second Row (L to R):** Clay Yeager, Former Chief, Columbia County, Nancy B. Williams, Chief, Blair County, Diane Miller, Former Chief, Warren County, Susan L. Blackburn, Former Chief, Somerset County, Adeline Beighley, Chief, Westmoreland County, Marietta Lamb-Mawby, Chief, Chester County, Andrew Kistler, Former Chief, Crawford County, Will Brinker, Former Chief, Mercer County, Edward Shearn, Chief, Schuylkill County, Bruce Grimm, Former Chief, Berks County, Paul J. Werrell, Chief, Lehigh County, Thomas Antolik, Former Chief, Erie County.

**Back Row (L to R):** John R. Penderville, Chief, Washington County, Kenton Scott, Former Chief, Jefferson County, Marshall R. Davis, Chief, Wyoming County, Kelly Franklin, Former Chief, Sullivan County, William J. Pysker, Former Chief, Northampton County, James Sharp, Chief, Philadelphia County, Cynthia A. Wess, Chief, Cambria County, Michael Noyes, Former Chief, Butler County, David L. Stager, Chief, Tioga County, Thomas P. Green, Former Chief, Schuylkill County, Robert J. Blakely, Chief, Erie County, Michael A. Schneider, Chief, Northampton County, Daniel Rhoades, Former Chief, York County, David H. Mueller, Chief, Lancaster County, Michael Brestin, Former Chief, Northumberland County, Michael McCalpin, Former Chief, Blair County, William Ford, Former Chief, Bucks County, Stephen J. Suknaic, Chief, Dauphin County, John Betters, Former Chief, Somerset County, Robert Daugherty, Chief, Venango County, James E. Anderson, Former Chief, Elk County, James Rieland, Chief, Allegheny County, Robert J. Stanzione, Chief, Bucks County



## Juvenile Court Consultant Vacancies

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is seeking candidates to fill two full-time Juvenile Court Consultant positions in the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, Harrisburg, PA. One position will serve as the primary point of contact for juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers regarding Specialized Probation Services Programs and provide on-site monitoring and evaluations of Specialized Probation Services Programs to ensure compliance with relevant program standards. The second position will serve as the Director of the Graduate Education Program at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University. Both positions will provide on-going technical assistance to juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers regarding the implementation of balanced and restorative justice principles.

The minimum experience and training requirements for the positions are: Five years of experience as a juvenile probation officer and a master's degree in criminal justice, criminology, or the behavioral sciences.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania offers a comprehensive benefit package. The starting annual salary for the positions is \$45,438. Appointments above the starting rate may be considered and will be commensurate with the candidates' education, work experience, and salary history. These are Civil Service positions that require Pennsylvania residency. An eligible list will be established through the evaluation of job-related experience and training of qualified applicants by the Civil Service Commission, based on the submission of written application materials provided by the candidate on the civil service application and application supplement. You may complete your application and Application Supplement No. 2008-094-1 online at the [State Civil Service website](#) or you may submit your completed paper application and paper application supplement to: State Civil Service Commission (ATTN: Applications) P.O. Box 569, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0569, **postmarked by no later than February 15, 2008**. Please contact [Keith Snyder](#) at (717) 787-5634, for additional information.

*The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer supporting workforce diversity.*

## PAPPC to Host 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Institute

The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections will host its 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Institute at the Inn at Pocono Manor, May 18 – 21, 2008. This year's theme is: **Working Together, Working Smarter For Safer Communities**. The institute promises to be an experience in professional development and networking featuring local, state and national leaders and trainers within the fields of probation, corrections, treatment and victim services.

The opening plenary session will feature a Panel of experts from Pennsylvania, moderated by William D. Burrell. William "Bill" Burrell served for nineteen years as Chief of Adult Probation Services in the New Jersey State Court System. Most recently he served on the faculty of Temple University and is currently a private consultant and chairman of the Editorial Committee for *Perspectives*, the journal of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) Board of Directors. He is also a member of the editorial board of *Community Corrections Report*.

Panel members who have confirmed their participation at this time are:

- Catherine C. McVey, Chair of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole
- Jeffrey A. Beard, Secretary of Corrections, PA Department of Corrections
- James E. Anderson, Executive Director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
- Carol Lavery, Victim Advocate of Pennsylvania
- Conway Bushey, Executive Director of the County Chief Adult Probation and Parole Officers Association of PA

Wednesday's inspirational speaker will be Dominic Herbst, M.S., M.A. Dominic is a therapist, author, consultant, public speaker, certified psychologist and a nationally renowned figure in the fields of juvenile justice and family therapy. Detailed registration information is available on the [PAPPC website](#).

# Facts of Life Seminar Enhances Competence in Moral Reasoning

By Douglas R. Ramm, Ph.D., *Board Certified Clinical Psychologist*

**T**he *Facts of Life Seminar* is a character development program which motivates adolescents to do what is right by demonstrating how it is in their own best interest to act on principle in daily living. It is based on the premise that while there are several factors which contribute to antisocial behavior, the desire to make a positive choice is the most effective deterrent to delinquent behavior. Since Judge John Driscoll decided to make this program a mandated intervention for all youth adjudicated delinquent in Westmoreland County in 2003, hundreds of teens have successfully participated. Outcome statistics indicate that of those who have completed the program there has been a 123% increase in the number who are likely to refrain from violence, a 92% increase in those likely to refrain from theft, a 178% increase in those who are likely to keep promises and a 160% increase in those who are likely to tell the truth.

*The Facts of Life Seminar* is an educational group process learning format which can be led by juvenile probation officers, mental health professionals, caseworkers and teachers in day treatment programs and residential placements. It consists of a series of lessons based on cutting edge research which has identified the relationship between happiness and human behavior which indicates that people are motivated to do what is right when they believe right behavior will enhance their potential to become happy, content and satisfied with life. Participants in the program are provided with a research-based model of understanding the nature of a good life and what people need to do to become and remain happy.

Once participants have a good grasp of what they need to have a satisfying quality of life, they are introduced to a set of seven self-defeating behaviors. These are courses of action which research indicates are likely to have a negative impact on a person's quality of life. In addition to showing participants how they lose what they need to become and remain happy by lying, cheating, stealing or assault, the seminar also demonstrates how they jeopardize their contentment and satisfaction with life when they abuse drugs and alcohol, engage in irresponsible sexual activity or fail to invest sufficient time and energy in an effort to obtain an education.

Once the participants have the ability to identify self-defeating behavior, they are introduced to alternatives to these potential courses of action. These alternatives are what psychological researchers have referred to as a set of scientifically formulated principles of morality. Participants are taught how to engage in principled reasoning. They are motivated to act on scientifically formulated principles of morality because they can see how doing so enhances their personal quality of life.

This model for principled reasoning appeals to adolescents because it does not require that they buy into any religion or philosophy. The *Facts of Life Seminar* is ideally suited for Pennsylvania's approach to balanced and restorative justice because it provides a means of enhancing moral reasoning skills which is not affiliated with any religious order or political school of thought. You can learn more about *The Facts of Life Seminar* at their [website](#).

The JCJC's Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research sponsored the first statewide training program for those interested in learning how to lead *Facts of Life Seminars* in 2006. The next training program is scheduled at State College on April 2-3, 2008. Details on the workshop and the opportunity to register may be reviewed within the Spring 2008 training section of the JCJC website.

# Youth and Family Teams as Evidence-Based Practice

By Stan Mrozowski, Ph.D.

**A**cross the nation, there is growing recognition of the need to use evidence-based practices to address the challenges of children and youth with serious behavioral health problems. Services such as MultiSystemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy and MultiDimensional Treatment Foster Care (described elsewhere in this edition) have an impressive research base.

While these interventions come with strong empirical support, there is emerging evidence that Youth and Family Teams, with their emphasis on family engagement, can further improve outcomes of evidence-based practices (Bruns, 2004). Youth and Family Teams engender commitment to evidence-based practices by engaging youth and families in choosing the most effective treatment.

In Pennsylvania, we are embarking on a major transformation of the children's behavioral health system. We will be changing the practice model to establish Youth and Family Teams as the center of service planning and delivery. We are creating an institute to train, coach, and monitor the facilitation of Youth and Family Teams. Training will be based on the standards recently established by the National Wraparound Initiative (Bruns, et al., 2004). In addition, in light of strong evidence that adherence to the principles and protocols of the wraparound process predict future child and family service and functioning outcomes (Bruns, Suter, Force, Burchard, & Dakan, 2003), a fidelity monitoring tool will be used to monitor and support quality. We believe this will insure adherence to the best practice for youth and their families.

## References:

- Bruns, Eric J. (2004) The evidence base and wrap-around. Presented at the 11th Annual Building on Family Strengths Conference, Portland, Oregon, May 7, 2004.
- Bruns, E. J., Suter, J., Burchard, J. D., Force, M., & Dakan, E. (2003). Fidelity to the Wraparound Process and its Association with Outcomes. In C. Newman, C. Liberton, K. Kutash, & R.M. Friedman (Eds.), *The 15th Annual Research Conference Proceedings: A System of Care for Children's Mental Health*. Tampa: University of South Florida, Florida Mental Health Institute Research and training Center for Children's Mental Health.

*Stan Mrozowski is the director of the Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Harrisburg, Pa. Reprinted by permission from the December 2007 edition of the PA CASSP Newsletter.*

## Call for Presentations: National Symposium on Juvenile Services

**T**he National Partnership for Juvenile Services has issued a "Call for Presentations" for the upcoming 14th National Symposium on Juvenile Services to be held on October 5 - 8, 2008 at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A limited number of workshop slots are available for individuals and groups interested in conducting presentations at this conference. To submit a proposal for consideration, visit their [website](#) and [email](#), fax (859-622-2333) or mail your proposal to the National Partnership for Juvenile Services, ATTN: SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL, EKV-300 Perkins Building/521 Lancaster Avenue, Richmond, KY 40475-3102. Please email submissions in Microsoft Word format. All proposals for consideration must be received no later than February 28, 2008.

## Survivor Speakers' Bureau Information

The Survivor Speakers' Bureau (SSB) consists of a group of survivors who can craft and deliver their personal messages of survival to diverse audiences with the goal of educating on crime, survival, crimes' impact on communities and to give hope to other survivors.

The speakers in the SSB can adapt their messages to meet the needs of the requestors for all speaking engagements and audiences. Speakers are prepared to speak independently and on impact panels with other survivors of crime. They respect time constraints and can effectively answer questions from the audience and media.

The members of the SSB are eager to speak at events across the state; to raise awareness in communities, educate individuals, inspire empathy in offenders and empower victims onto the path of survival.

*"My reason for public speaking is to let people know they are not alone and to educate them on these matters. If I can make a difference with even just one person then that is what really matters."* - Angela, Speaker with the SSB

*"Each time I speak to other survivors, I get a little stronger. Each time I tell Toni's (my sister's) story, I get a little stronger. Each time I speak out against domestic and gun violence I find my strength."* - Shelly, Speaker with the SSB.

*"Mark's life is not lost in vain if we are able to learn from his and other tragedies. He may be gone but by doing this, he is never forgotten."* - Shawn, Speaker with the SSB.

Victims Rights' week will be here before you know it. The SSB has 21 passionate and trained public speakers. If you are planning a vigil, Take Back the Night, impact panel, rally, need to fulfill a media request, want to add a survivor's voice to an in-service training or conference or any other event, please contact [Krista Hoffman](#) at 717-265-8726 to schedule a speaker.



# Call for Presentations

## The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 5 - November 7, 2008  
Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

The sponsors of The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice are requesting presentations for workshops to be offered on Thursday, November 6, 2008. Interested presenters should complete this form and return it by **May 19, 2008**. In order for your application to be considered, please submit a program description, a brief biography of the trainer and any supplementary materials.

• **Proposed title of workshop:** \_\_\_\_\_

• **Brief description of presentation:** (50 words or less) \_\_\_\_\_

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• **Brief biography of the trainer(s):** (50 words or less) \_\_\_\_\_

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• **Please list a reference and contact information of someone who is familiar with the trainer/presentation:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

• **This presentation is best suited as a:**

90-minute workshop (presented in one 90-minute session)

180-minute training (presented in two consecutive sessions)



Please Note: Two presenters from each selected workshop will be our guests during the course of the three-day conference with all registration fees waived. Presenters will be responsible for their own lodging and travel expenses.

• **This workshop is recommended for:** (check all that apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Court Judges            | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Court Masters            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Program Providers    | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Prevention Specialists  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specialized Probation Officers   | <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Juvenile Probation Officers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Probation Supervisors   | <input type="checkbox"/> Victim Services Representatives   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local and State Policy Officials |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____     |  |

Name of principal contact person/trainer: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/organization and address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION AND ATTACH ALL  
SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAM DESCRIPTIVE MATERIALS,  
TRAINER'S VITA, AND PARTICIPANT HANDOUTS BY  
MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008 TO:**

John Cookus, Director  
Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research  
Shippensburg University  
1871 Old Main Drive  
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Phone: 717-477-1188  
Fax: 717-477-1236  
E-mail: [jcookus@state.pa.us](mailto:jcookus@state.pa.us)