

2008 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

The 2008 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, 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 November 5-7, 2008 at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers. This year, approximately 1,300 individuals registered for the conference.

Professional Caucuses

The Conference began on November 5th, 2008, 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. Caucuses were held in the following areas of specialty: 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 in each of these causes will appear in next month's newsletter.

Youth Awards Program

The 2008 Youth Awards Program was held on Wednesday evening, November 5th, and was attended by nearly 700 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 Jeremy Estrada, who shared his compelling story about growing up in the drug-plagued and gang-controlled neighborhoods of south central Los Angeles and, with juvenile court intervention and support, continues to work toward his goal of becoming a doctor. Jeremy is currently a medical school student at Georgetown University School of Medicine and is expected to obtain his M.D. in June 2009.

Conference Welcome and Keynote Presentation

On Thursday morning, November 6th, Judge Arthur E. Grim, Chairman of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, gave the "Conference Welcome", and noted that with its unique combination of training, professional caucuses, awards programs, and Resource Day, the Pennsylvania's annual juvenile justice conference is regarded as the premier state-level juvenile justice conference in the nation.

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The Keynote Presentation was provided by Dr. Clyde Hornberger, Executive Director of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute (LCTI), where he has demonstrated dynamic leadership. As its Executive Director, he expanded program offerings from 29 in 1996 to 50 in 2008, made technical skill standards and state and national skill a priority, instituted a competency-based curriculum model, and made student preparation for careers and post-secondary success the highest priority. During his Keynote Presentation, “Competency and Career Development for Delinquent Youth: Creating New Expectations”, Dr. Hornberger shared his perspectives on the importance of improving career and competency development in our juvenile justice system.

Workshops

Over 700 people registered to attend twenty-eight different workshops on Thursday, November 6th. The workshops included:

Morning Workshops

- Improving Community-Law Enforcement Relationships in Communities of Color Through Dialogue Forums
- Restorative Discipline in Schools: What does it Look Like?
- Improving Family Involvement Across the Juvenile Justice System: A Monograph
- Integrating Juvenile Justice Goals into Good Probation Practice
- Treating PTSD in Adolescent Girls
- The Career Academy: LCTI's Alternative Education Program
- Employment Assessment, Job Readiness Training, and Paid Work Experience for Delinquent Youth: The Cambria County Model
- Effective Strategies for Truancy Intervention: The Norristown Truancy Abatement Initiative
- Advancing Competency Development: A Resource Guide for Pennsylvania
- Engaging the Community: A Key to Achieving Balanced and Restorative Justice
- Prevention Through Collaboration: What Makes a Coalition Successful?
- First Amendment Law and the Juvenile Justice System
- The Pa. Academic and Career / Technical Training Alliance
- FFT and MST: Understanding the Similarities and Differences



Afternoon Workshops

- PCCD's Evidence-Based Program Initiative
- Juvenile Firesetters Intervention: The Juvenile Justice System Response
- The Central Pa. Workforce Investment Board: Linking the Juvenile Justice and Workforce Systems
- Restorative Justice Through Family Group Decision Making
- Trauma, Youth Violence, and Trauma Informed Care
- The New Hope Program for Adolescent Opiate Abusers
- Competency Development in Action: The Somerset County Independent Living Program
- Raising the Bar: Improving the Quality of Local Intervention Programs
- Models for Change: An Update on Pennsylvania's Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Initiative
- Models for Change: An Update on Pennsylvania's Aftercare Initiative
- Adolescent Females in the Juvenile Justice System: A Neuropsychological Model



- Competency Development in Career and Technical Education: The Glen Mills Approach
- PDE's Role and Resources for Delinquent Youth
- Recovery Comes First: Brain Injury Rehabilitation for Children in the Juvenile Justice System

Juvenile Defender Training

Over fifty juvenile defenders from across Pennsylvania attended the 2008 Conference on Juvenile Justice, and participated in a separate training track developed exclusively for them on Thursday, November 1st. Presentations for juvenile defenders included: Setting the Stage for Quality Improvement Efforts in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System; Search and Seizure; Restraints; Assessing Competency to Stand Trial; How to file an Appeal; and Ethics. A "Judges Roundtable" was also held at which time juvenile court judges joined the defenders for lunch

Thursday Afternoon Plenary Session

Clay Yeager moderated a panel discussion during the afternoon plenary session entitled "Achieving Competency and Career Development For Delinquent Youth: Getting There From Here". Panel members included Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark, Administrative Judge, Allegheny County; James Rieland, Director, Allegheny County Probation; Bernadette Bianchi, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Council of Children Youth and Families; Eugene (Dick) Dickert, Executive Vice President (Retired) Elliott Company, Westmoreland County; James Sharp, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Philadelphia County; Sandi Vito, Acting Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry; Dr. Clyde Hornberger, Executive Director, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute; Richard J. Gold, Esq., Deputy Secretary, Office of Children, Youth, and Families, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare; and Dr. Lee Burket, Director, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education.



During this session, Clay guided the panel in a candid assessment of our current system, the panel's vision for the future of career and competency development opportunities within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system, and what must be done to make that vision a reality.

Annual Awards Program and Dinner

Thursday's activities concluded with the 28th 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. (See insert of this year's award winners)

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 7th. Bob Schwartz, Executive Director of the Juvenile Law Center, provided an overview of the Models for Change initiative both nationally and in Pennsylvania. An update was provided on the work of the Diversion Subcommittee of the Mental Health / Juvenile Justice Workgroup was provided by Lourdes Rosado. Clay Yeager and Wendy Luckenbill also gave an update on the Family Involvement initiative, which crosses Targeted Areas of Improvement.

Resource Day

The 2008 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.

2009 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

The 2009 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will be held November 4-6, 2009. Mark your calendars now!



Act 98 of 2008 (Copies of subpoenas to parents)

HB 301(342) was signed into law by Governor Rendell as [Act 98 of 2008](#) on October 9, 2008.

Act 98 amends the Juvenile Act at §6333 (relating to subpoena) to require that a copy of the subpoena requiring attendance and testimony of a witness who is under age 18 shall be provided to the parent, guardian or other custodian of the witness, although the court may waive issuance of the copy for cause shown in a specific case. Currently, Pa. R.J.C.P. 123 (relating to subpoenas) requires that if a witness is a minor, the witness's guardian shall be notified that the minor has been subpoenaed, but does not require that the guardian receive a copy of the subpoena. Rule 123 also provides that, upon prior court approval and good cause shown, a subpoena may be served upon a minor without such notification to the guardian, and that if and when necessary, a request for such prior court approval may be obtained ex parte.

Act 98 also amends Title 42 to provide for additional judgeships in the counties of Adams, York, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Montgomery, Northampton, Carbon, Lackawanna and Franklin/Fulton. This legislation also moves the Minor Judiciary Education Board to the Supreme Court from the Executive Branch. This Board will now be appointed by the Supreme Court, rather than the Governor, and the Chairman of the Board will also be appointed by the Supreme Court.

Certain provisions of Act 98 become effective immediately, however, the amendments to 42 Pa. C.S. §6333 (relating to subpoena) become effective on December 8, 2008.



Pennsylvania **JUVENILE ACT** Amendments

Act 109 of 2008 (Self-incrimination protections, reports from foster parents at permanency hearings)

HB 1511(4439) was signed into law by Governor Rendell on October 9, 2008 as [Act 109 of 2008](#). Act 109 will become effective on December 8, 2008.

Act 109 extends Pennsylvania's statutory privilege protecting information from being admitted into evidence on the issue of whether a child committed a delinquent act or on the issue of guilt in criminal proceedings. Specifically, statements made by, or incriminating information obtained from, a youth during screening, assessment, and/or evaluation could not be used against that youth in a subsequent delinquency hearing or criminal trial. These provisions of Act 109 originated as SB 1269(1731), which was introduced by Senator Greenleaf (R-Montgomery) on February 4, 2008. On September 24, 2008 Sen. Greenleaf offered an amendment to HB 1511(3764) to include the provisions of SB 1269(1731).

Act 109 amends the Juvenile Act at §§ 6338 (relating to other basic rights) and 6341 (relating to adjudication) to provide that no statements, admissions or confessions made by, or incriminating information obtained from, a child in the course of a screening or assessment that is undertaken in conjunction with a proceeding under the Juvenile Act, shall be admitted into evidence against the child on the issue of whether the child committed a delinquent act or on the issue of guilt in any criminal proceeding. In addition, Act 109 amends § 6341(d) (relating to evidence on issue of disposition) to clarify that information obtained during the course of screening and assessment examinations ordered by the court may be received by the court in disposition hearings, even though no statements or admissions made during the course thereof may be admitted into evidence on the issue of whether the child committed a delinquent act.

Act 109 also amends the Juvenile Act at §6302 (relating to definitions) to define **“assessment”** as an individualized examination of a child to determine the child's psychosocial needs and problems, including the type and extent of any mental health, substance abuse or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders and recommendations for treatment. The term includes, but is not limited to, a drug and alcohol, psychological and psychiatric evaluation, records review, clinical interview and the administration of a formal test and instrument. The term **“screening”** is defined as a process, regardless of whether it includes the administration of a formal instrument, that is designed to identify a child who is at increased risk of having mental health, substance abuse or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders that warrant immediate attention, intervention or more comprehensive assessment.

These amendments essentially extend Pennsylvania's statutory privilege protecting information communicated to psychologists or psychiatrists in a purely clinical setting (**see** 42 Pa. C.S.A. §5944) to information revealed by youth during screening, assessment and evaluation activities undertaken in conjunction with delinquency proceedings. The amendments are also consistent with federal drug and alcohol law that generally prohibits the use of treatment records to initiate or substantiate any criminal charges against a patient or to conduct any investigation of a patient. [**See** 42 U.S.C. 290dd-2(c)].

Act 109 also amends the Juvenile Act at §6336.1 (relating to notice and hearing) to add a new subsection (b) (relating to permanency hearings) to provide that, prior to a permanency hearing, a child's foster parent or parents, preadoptive parent or relative providing care for a child may submit a report to the court in regard to the child's adjustment, progress and condition.

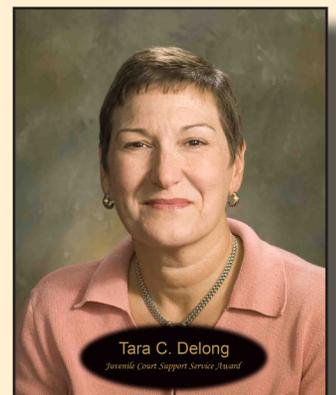
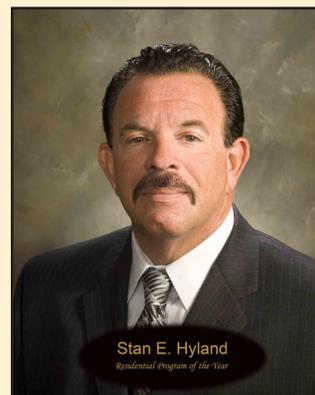
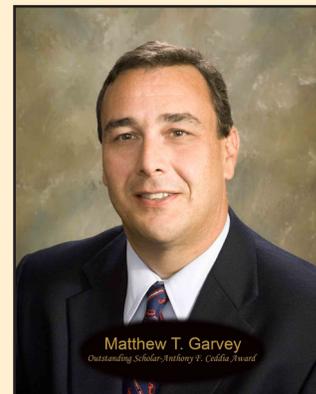
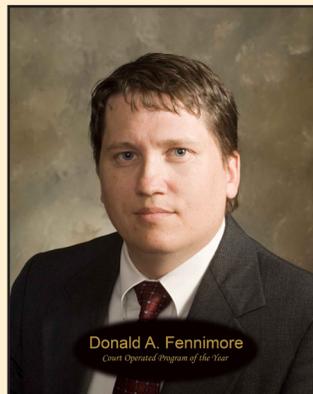
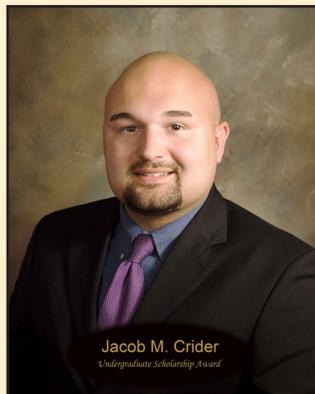
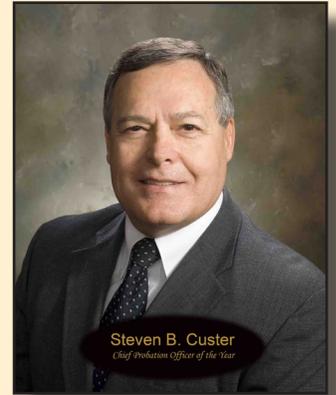
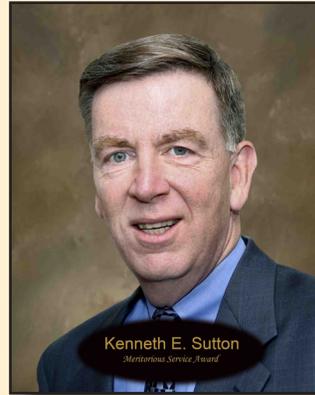
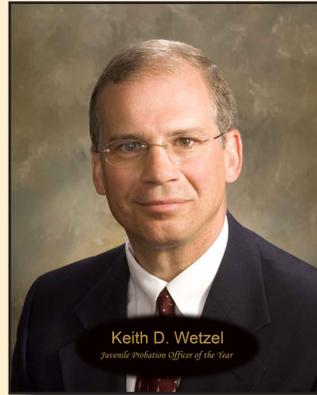
Act 109 requires the county children and youth agency to notify the foster parent or parents, preadoptive parent or relative providing care for a child of the right to submit a report under this legislation. The county agency is required to provide these individuals with information identifying the name of the judge or officer of the court, along with the mailing address, to whom the report is to be submitted.

DPW is required to develop a form to be used as the basis for the report, which would be considered confidential, except at the discretion of the court, and would be subject to review by other persons and agencies pursuant to §§ 6307 (relating to inspection of court files and records) and 6342(d)(1) (relating to court appointed special advocates).

Act 109 specifically provides that a county or private agency is not permitted to take any retaliatory action against a foster parent, preadoptive parent or relative for any information, comments or concerns provided in good faith in a report under this subsection. However, these provisions are not to be construed to prevent action by an agency if the report contains information that any such individual has engaged in conduct that is contrary to any regulation or law or is not in the child's best interest.

Juvenile Court Judges' Commission congratulates all of the

2008 Award Winners



Congratulations!

Juvenile Justice Week Showcase

By Proclamation of Governor Rendell, October 5-11, 2008 was recognized as Juvenile Justice Week in Pennsylvania. Juvenile probation departments across the Commonwealth were encouraged to utilize Juvenile Justice Week as an opportunity to engage the public about the mission and outcomes of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

Guest articles are always welcome to this publication, but the Commission is particularly proud to showcase the various events across the Commonwealth that celebrated Juvenile Justice Week. Following are 4 other examples of, not only the great events being held, but the media accounts highlighting the exemplary work being done everyday within our Juvenile Justice System.

Chester County

SIXTH ANNUAL JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Dr. Bruce Mapes, is familiar to anyone who is associated with Chester County Courts. Whether in Adult Criminal Court or in Juvenile Court, judges and masters rely on his expert opinion to assist them in making decisions. Although Dr. Mapes sits on the boards of many state organizations and is often an expert witness for cases in adult court, it was his work with the youth of Chester County that was honored by President Judge Paula Francisco Ott at the Sixth Annual Juvenile Justice Week Recognition Ceremony, held Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at the newly opened Chester County Justice Center.

For thirty years, Bruce Mapes has served the citizens of Chester County by working with youth and the courts by offering his expertise as a psychologist. Few of the adults or children that Bruce has evaluated have any inkling of the richness of his background.

After graduating from Muhlenberg College, Bruce began working as a teacher of pre-school children in the Head Start program. He continued obtaining additional experience with three years as a special education teacher for Vanguard Schools. Six years after his college graduation, he earned his Doctorate in Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania.

He continued his work with youth at the Chester County Intermediate Unit, the West Chester Area School District, Camphill Special Schools, and the Church Farm School. He has also taught at Eastern, Cabrini, and Immaculata Colleges. His professional interest and experience with youth extends from the pre-school through adolescence.

Bruce has been a staunch defender of the rights of children as well as providing the court with a realistic appraisal of the risk that an individual might pose to the community. His tireless work ethic, his intellect, and his ability to care for each individual make Dr. Mapes a treasured resource for the Juvenile Court and the Juvenile Probation Office of Chester County.

Also during the Juvenile Justice ceremony, the Third Annual Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year Award was received by Intake Investigative Officer Amy Musumeci. Amy is a West Chester University graduate and has been with the Juvenile Probation Department for 2 ½ years. Amy's previous work experience includes the Coatesville Police Department and the Crime Victims' Center of Chester County Inc. Amy was recognized due to her exceptional ability to involve families in the planning process, focus individual attention on each case and selflessly assist her peers and the department whenever needed.

EX-PRO ATHLETE SAYS YOUTH NEED 'TRUTH'

Reprinted with permission from the *Sun Gazette*
By Mark Maroney; October 8, 2008

http://www.sungazette.com/page/content_detail/id/516806.html



Joe Ehrmann challenges an audience to teach young people “the real meaning of adulthood. A former professional football player turned ordained minister called on the community-at-large to come together so boys and girls realize what it takes to be real men and women.

“Look them in the eyes and give them some kind of affirmation and validation about their human potential, value and worth,” said Joe Ehrmann, 59, of Baltimore, guest speaker at the 11th annual Lycoming County Youth Commission Banquet held Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at the First United Methodist Church’s Christian Life Center.

His rousing 45-minute speech was met at the end with applause from an audience consisting of many individuals who are devoted to becoming agents of hope for the county’s youth population.

Those gathered included law enforcement officials, juvenile justice officials, judges and members of Susquehanna House, school district officials, clergy and Lycoming County Youth Commission workers.

The former all-American defensive end at Syracuse University and all-pro defensive end for the Baltimore Colts, and co-founder of The Door, “an inner-city community based ministry

addressing issues of poverty, systemic racism and social injustice,” urged those in attendance to avoid apathy and indifference at all cost, and to renounce the mixed-messages bombarding today’s youth. He said such falsehoods were perpetrated by agents of profit on Madison Avenue and Hollywood and the mainstream media.

To be a man or woman is about developing relationships.

“It’s living a life with the capacity to love and be loved,” he said. “On death’s door, it’s being able to look back and realize without fear what kind of husband, wife, mother, son, daughter, community member I was,” he said.

He claimed six lies were leading juveniles astray and causing them to evolve into criminals or live under the burden of depression, turning to addictive behavior such as drug and alcohol abuse, pornography, dangerous forms of sex and violence on the streets.

It is not about telling boys to “suck it up” or to shun 8-year-olds who don’t demonstrate athletic prowess, he added. For girls, he said, emulating supermodels or having them believe they must use sex appeal to attract the opposite sex is a lie.

Ehrmann said boys and girls constantly face lies in their early childhood that form their thinking as they mature.

Among them, society ascribes masculinity to boys by measuring their size, strength or athletic ability or stressing sexual conquest to validate masculine insecurity, he said.



Founding members of Partners for Lycoming County Youth, pictured from left to right: Wayne Fausnaught, Matt Yonkin, Joe Ehrmann, Greg Kahn, Ed Robbins, Tim Fausnaught, Jim McCloy. Absent is Judge William S. Kieser

JUVENILE COURT EMPLOYEES, CITIZENS HONORED AT BANQUET

Reprinted with the permission of the News Item (Shamokin)

By Julie Nicolov, Staff Writer; Saturday, October 4, 2008

http://www.newsitem.com/articles/2008/10/04/news/sh_newsitem.20081004.a.pg11.sh04juvenile_s1.1992334_loc.txt

COAL TOWNSHIP — Members of the Northumberland County Juvenile Court gathered at Northumberland County Area Career and Technology Center on Thursday for their 17th annual banquet.

Several members of the community and court system were honored at the banquet.

Paul Metrocavage, city editor of The News-Item, received the Fred Piermattei Youth Service Award. Maxine Querry, Chad Dixon and Bradley Hoagland received Michael Kivko Memorial Youth Scholarships.

Coal Township Patrolman Chris Lapotsky was named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year; Michael Kmietowicz, a teacher at Coordinated Learning Alternatives for Northumberland County Youth, was named Educator of the Year, and Janice Nestico was named Juvenile Court Employee of the Year.

Clay Yeager, juvenile justice and child welfare consultant, was the keynote speaker.

Yeager has worked in the juvenile justice system for more than 30 years. Among other positions, he has served as chief juvenile probation officer of Columbia County, president of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and executive director of Governor Tom Ridge's Community Partnership for Safe Children. He was named Pennsylvania's first director of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and served as president and chief executive officer of the Nurse-Family Partnership national office. He currently manages a private consulting firm that promotes development of children, families and communities.

Yeager, who started his career as a juvenile probation officer in Columbia County, said he remembers the moment he realized the importance of his job.

In 1974, two boys were brought into the Columbia County juvenile Detention Center after police arrested them and their mother for rummaging through Dumpsters behind a restaurant. The boys were placed in a dark, cement-block room by themselves in the middle

of the night. Yeager said he remembers hearing them cry.

"That was a defining moment," Yeager said.

He realized those children, then ages 8 and 10, were in the detention center through no fault of their own, and the policies of the juvenile courts of the early 1970s may have made the situation worse.

At that time, Yeager noted, the mantra of the juvenile courts was, "Nothing works."

Over the years, juvenile courts have tried fad after fad to bring kids back from the brink, he said, only to be met with failure.

Making a difference in a child's life, Yeager said, is more simple than some may think. Paraphrasing Urie Bronfenbrenner, American psychologist and co-founder of the Head Start program, Yeager said, "Every kid needs somebody who's crazy about them."

"How many kids in our lives need someone who is crazy about them? I suppose there are a lot of them," he added.

Yeager reminded the audience that children look to the adults in their lives to guide them very early on.

"They are seeking the answers of the universe at age 2," he said, inciting laughter from the crowd. Parents, he added, don't always know how to answer and guide them, making juvenile probation officers' jobs all the more important.

"We are the last best chance they have," he said. "We're their last best hope; don't you see?"

Yeager told the audience about Jeremy Estrada, a former gang member who currently attends medical school at Georgetown University. After years in and out of probation facilities for violent offenses as a teenager, Estrada attended Rite of Passage, a wilderness challenge program in California, where he met a teacher who challenged him to learn. Estrada, Yeager said, met that person who was crazy about him and did his best to make the teacher proud.

"There's a Jeremy Estrada in this county whom you haven't yet discovered," he said.

Yeager made a point to honor and thank the juvenile court employees who often work a thankless job.

"There are no parades for juvenile probation officers, so tonight we'll have one for all the work you do," he said.

Allegheny County

ALLEGHENY COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CELEBRATES ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

By Angela Wyman and Ron McKeever

In 1933, the passage of the Juvenile Court Law of Allegheny County was hailed as a landmark for social legislation. Subsequently, The Honorable Gustav L. Schramm took office as the first Presiding Judge of Allegheny County Juvenile Court in 1934. Allegheny County Juvenile Court celebrated Juvenile Justice Week and its 75th anniversary from Oct. 3-11 beginning with Dollars for Restitution Day and concluding with Juvenile Probation Community Service Day.

James Rieland, our current Director, has been an integral part of Allegheny County Juvenile Court since the start of his career here in 1974 as a student intern. Mr. Rieland has been key in developing much needed services and ideas, such as an additional Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP) center in McKeesport, placing victim's services staff in each of the district offices, the initiation of the Warrant Unit, and several other aspects and expansion of the Balanced and Restorative Justice principles.

The 75th Anniversary Reception program was conducted on October 7, 2008 and comprised remarks by Administrative Judge Kim Berkeley Clark, President Judge Joseph James, Court Administrator Raymond Billotte and Director James Rieland.

Guests were able to view the recently updated museum and memorabilia displays. In addition, guests were the first to view the historical video of Allegheny County Juvenile Court. Probation Officer Mark Yon and Supervisor Shawn Forbes interviewed and videotaped several current and former judges and staff on the development of Allegheny County Juvenile Court. Several Staff were recognized for their efforts and commitment

to the youth of Allegheny County at the ceremony. A second 20-minute video was made titled "Words of Wisdom" whereby many probation officers gave advice to new probation officers concerning the importance of their job.

All guests were able to take home a video featuring the newly filmed history of Juvenile Court, Words of Wisdom, the Realities of Juvenile Justice and a video made in 1957 featuring Judge Schramm. In addition, a commemorative booklet was distributed documenting various milestones in Allegheny County Juvenile Probation.

Also featured on the calendar of events for Juvenile Justice Week (JJW) were the annual McKeesport AIDS Walk, Take the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Pledge, Open House, Youth Essay Awards, and the Rookie of the Year presentation to emphasize Allegheny County as the "first problem solving court". Shannon, 19, a former Garfield CISP youth, was also honored at the Youth Awards. He committed to law-abiding behavior and attributed his turnaround to the supervision provided by the Community Intensive Supervision Program. Shannon testified before Congress in July 2007 about the value of federal funding for programs to help juvenile offenders reform. He is currently employed and is paying his own way through Community College of Allegheny County.

All of the events during JJW were sponsored by the Community Education Initiative, the 75th Anniversary sub-committee and the Museum Committee: Connie Przybyla, Chairperson, Nate Almond, Liz Bailie, Ray Bauer, Avis Beck, Jamie Bendik, Randi Brand, Kim Clark, Ron Dziuban, Melissa Ferraro, Shawn Forbes, Angie Lang, Mark Yon, Kathy Leahy, Val Ketter, George Kinder, Ron McKeever, James Miller, Tom O'Connor, Ron Seyko, Jess Smerkol, Marlo Svidron, and Leah Vallone.

This celebration was truly the recognition of the important work done each day by the Allegheny County Juvenile Court.



First Row: Judge Tamilia, President Judge James, Judge Strassburger, Administrative Judge McDaniel, Judge Cohill, Judge Mulligan, Judge K. Bigley, Administrative Judge Clark, Judge O'Riely, Judge Flaherty, Judge DeAngelis, Judge Ward, Judge Johnson, Judge Borowski
Second Row: Judge Wettick, Court Administrator Billotte, Judge Hens-Greco, Judge Colville, Judge Allen, Judge McVay, Director Rieland, Judge G. Bigley, Judge Hertzberg, Judge Rangos, Judge Dellavecchio, Judge Kaplan

Justice Department Study Dispels Myths about Girls' Delinquency

Reprint from JUVJUST, a service OJP from OJJDP

On October 30, 2008, the [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP) issued the following [press release](#):

Washington - The Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) today released a research bulletin, "Charting the Way to Delinquency Prevention for Girls," which reports that despite the rise in female juvenile crime, violence among female youth has not increased.

Following a sharp increase in arrests among female juveniles in the 1990s, OJJDP convened the Girls Study Group (GSG) to gain a better understanding of girls' delinquency and guide policy toward female juvenile offenders. While the majority of delinquent offenders are boys, little research exists on female juvenile delinquency. This first bulletin, part of a forthcoming series, summarizes findings from a comprehensive research project into girls' delinquent behavior.

"The Office of Justice Programs created the Girls' Study Group to fully understand why an increasing number of girls are entering the juvenile justice system and to better understand how to prevent and intervene in girls' delinquency," said Jeffrey L. Sedgwick, Assistant Attorney General for OJP.

Key findings of the OJJDP-sponsored Girls Study Group include the following:

- Girls are not more violent now than in previous years. One of the factors discussed in the bulletin is the unintended impact of relatively new mandatory or pro-arrest policies put in place to protect victims of domestic violence.
- Girls and boys experience many of the same delinquency factors and that, while some risk factors are more gender-sensitive, focusing on general risk and protective factors for all youth is effective.
- Developing and using appropriate risk assessment tools for youth of both genders is crucial to ensuring the best response.
- A concerted effort is needed to address the lack of evidence-based programs for the juvenile justice field overall, as well as the lack of programming for girls specifically.

"By convening the Girls' Study Group, we made understanding girls involvement in delinquency a priority," said J. Robert Flores, Administrator of OJJDP. "We will use the data collected from this study to assist government and community leaders in responding to the needs of girls."

Over the next several months, a series of bulletins will be released highlighting the Girls Study Group findings, each one focusing on specific questions from the study group's research.

The questions answered by the bulletins will include:

- Which girls become delinquent?
- What factors protect girls from delinquency?
- What factors put girls at risk for delinquency?
- What pathways lead to girls' delinquency?
- How should the juvenile justice system respond to girls' delinquency?

For more information on
OJJDP's programs
for delinquent girls,
please visit:

ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/girlsdelinquency.html



JDCAP Conference

14th National Symposium on Juvenile Services held in Pittsburgh

The Juvenile Detention Centers' Association of Pennsylvania (JDCAP) held their annual conference on October 5-8, 2008, at the Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh. In a partnership with the National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS), this conference was the 14th National Symposium on Juvenile Services. Additionally, this was a time for JDCAP to celebrate its 30th anniversary and for the National Juvenile Detention Association (NJDA) to celebrate its 40th anniversary. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Partnership (NPJS), JDCAP, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, with a theme of "Securing the Future of the Juvenile Justice System".

Conference attendees were welcomed to Allegheny County by County Executive Dan Onorato, who was coincidentally celebrating the 250th anniversary of Pittsburgh. The conference featured 40 workshops that

addressed staff training and development strategies, Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives, special population issues and strategies, as well as varied other topics in juvenile administration and practice.

Annually, JDCAP recognizes individuals for their outstanding service and achievement. The following individuals were recognized during the Awards Dinner Banquet:

- Niya Adams, Montgomery County – Rookie Staff of the Year
- John Candales, Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center – Staff Person of the Year
- Matt O'Shea, Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center – Educator of the Year
- Helen Aldredge, Bucks County Youth Center – Nurse of the Year
- Ryan Gaither, Abraxas Youth Center – Distinguished Service Award Within the Field of Juvenile Detention
- Scott Martin, Lancaster County Commissioner – Distinguished Service Award Outside the Field of Juvenile Detention

- Youth Center Quilting Program, Bucks County Youth Center – Special Program of the Year
- The Dinner Party, Montgomery County Youth Center – Special Event of the Year

Alex Wilson, retired Shuman Detention Center Administrator, was recognized for his dedication and service to the Association with the President's Award. Tylisha, a Montgomery County youth, was the winner of the annual poetry contest. As the winner, Tylisha received a \$100 savings bond for her entry entitled *Securing My Future; Past, Present, Future*.

Elections for the JDCAP officers also took place during the conference. The following officers were elected:

Jim Jones, Central Counties Youth Center – President;

Marq Temple, Philadelphia Youth Study Center – Vice-President;

Dan Kern, Herbert H. Schaffner Youth Center – Secretary; and

Tom Pilson, Delaware County – Treasurer.

JDCAP's 2009 Annual Conference will be held in October at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College.



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 is the editor. Our address is CJJT&R, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299. (spbish@ship.edu)

