

## Pennsylvania is Host Site for 2009 Conference on Family Group Decision Making and Other Family Engagement Approaches

The 2009 Conference on Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) and Other Family Engagement Approaches was held June 2-5, 2009 at the Westin Convention Center in Pittsburgh. As the name suggests, the scope of this international conference – hosted annually by American Humane since 1997 – has formally expanded to focus not just on FGDM, but on other effective family engagement models and practices. The Director of American Humane’s National Center on Family Group Decision Making, Lisa Merkel-Holguin, explains the shift: “In 2008, American Humane’s National Center on FGDM released a seminal paper entitled *Family Group Decision Making in Child Welfare: Purpose, Values and Processes*. This document, developed in partnership with FGDM leaders worldwide, provides a clear definition of FGDM, enabling the accurate classification of family-involvement approaches as being FGDM, for the purposes of funding application, research and evaluation, and training and education. Given the increased national interest in the plethora of family engagement approaches, coupled with our belief that these approaches can build on each other to achieve positive outcomes for children and families, and our 2008 definition of FGDM, American Humane, with the guidance of our National Center on FGDM Advisory Committee, has expanded this annual conference to encompass many approaches for engaging family groups in decision making in child welfare and other systems”.



Marie Wheatley, president and CEO, American Humane delivers opening remarks.

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**NEW!**

To subscribe to the JJC newsletter, Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice, please send your request to [jjcnews@ship.edu](mailto:jjcnews@ship.edu) to be added to the distribution list. You will receive an email alert each month when the latest edition is available.

**NEW!**

In keeping with the expanded focus and the conference site, the theme for this year's conference was *Family: The Keystone for Systems Change*. The conference officially began on June 3<sup>rd</sup> with motivational storyteller and author D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas' presentation, *Keeping the Fires Lit*. The conference also featured several general sessions, which included: three panel presentations – one each day featuring child welfare administrators, family members, and judges that utilize or have experienced these practices – on the effectiveness and benefits of family engagement approaches; and an international review of the research findings on family engagement models by three leading researchers. Lastly, motivational speaker Harvey Alston's humorous and inspirational presentation, *Be the Best*, helped end the conference on a high note.



The Honorable Dwayne Woodruff, Allegheny County Court, and JCJC member welcomes participants to Pittsburgh.



Judicial Panel included: From Left, The Honorable Max Baer, (PA Supreme Court); The Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, (Allegheny County Court, JCJC Member); The Honorable Charles Pratt, (Allen Superior Court, Fort Wayne, Indiana); The Honorable Todd Hoover, (Dauphin County Court)

***The 2010 conference will be held June 22-25, in Burlington, Vermont.***

Family Group Decision Making is a continually emerging practice across the nation, and particularly in Pennsylvania. Currently, more than 40 counties across the Commonwealth are implementing and actively involved with FGDM. Please visit the [National Center on FGDM](#) website for more information. You may also contact [Christina Fatzinger](#), MS or [Wendy Unger](#), MSW at the [PA Child Welfare Training Center](#) for Pennsylvania-specific information and resources.

With over 600 participants from 30 states, 5 countries, and 4 Canadian provinces in attendance, Pennsylvania was strongly represented by a diverse contingent of 400 professionals and community members from various counties and agencies, including children and youth, human services, private providers, local agencies, universities, judges, police, and both adult and juvenile probation. The 3½ day conference also included six intensive pre-conference seminars and skills institutes, and sixty workshops and discussion groups, twenty-four of which were presented by Pennsylvania attendees.



Workshop presenters from Dauphin County included: Sarah Allewelt (It Takes a Village); Troy Tate (Parent); The Honorable John Cherry, (Dauphin County Court); Steve Suknaic, (Director, Dauphin County JPO)

~ UPDATE ~

## 2009 Juvenile Delinquency Records Handbook and Expungement Guide Available.

visit: [www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us)



### Weekend Master's Degree Program Accepting Applications for the Class of 2012

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored weekend Master's Degree program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2012 will begin classes in the fall of 2010. The deadline to apply is September 1, 2009.

The Shippensburg University program offers students a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice. This is a 36-credit hour program that includes courses in research methods, theory, administration, and policy analysis. Also featured is a practicum study which is conducted throughout the two-year program. This practicum study provides students the opportunity to evaluate an existing program or practice that serves juvenile offenders in their home county, or another existing program or practice that impacts the juvenile justice system (i.e. prevention, assessment).

Classes in this two-year program are scheduled every third weekend in the fall, spring, and summer, with no classes scheduled during the month of August. This program is available to county juvenile probation officers (and county juvenile detention staff as space allows) who will have at least two years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes. Other juvenile justice professionals – such as residential placement staff and victim services providers – may also apply and be accepted into the program on a “self-pay” basis (or via an employer), again, as space is available.

Applicants who have an undergraduate grade point average of less than 2.75 must take and pass the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the Graduate Record Examination.

Additional information about the program is available on the [Graduate Education](#) pages of the [JCJC website](#). If you have any questions regarding eligibility or the application process, please contact [Stephen Bishop](#) at 717-477-1294.

### Fall 2009 Juvenile Justice Academy Reminder



The on-line segment of “Juvenile Justice Academy: Orientation for the New Professional”, which includes the on-line “Pennsylvania Juvenile Act” course and the prerequisite “On-line Learner’s Orientation” course, must be completed by all new juvenile probation officers who are planning to attend the Fall Academy (September 1-4 & September 22-25) **prior** to attending the program. Departments should register staff for the on-line courses as soon as possible. The “On-line Learner’s Orientation” course starts each week on Mondays. The “Pennsylvania Juvenile Act” course will be offered the weeks of July 13-17, August 10-14, and September 14-18.

Registration for both on-line courses, as well as the two weeks of live training, is a single process – all covered by the \$250 registration fee. Registration is currently available on-line via the [JCJC website](#) under “Training”. For additional registration information or materials on Orientation or any other Center training programs, please contact the Center’s training program at [cjtraining@ship.edu](mailto:cjtraining@ship.edu).



# Juvenile Detention Centers' Association of Pennsylvania 2009 Annual Conference

*The Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA*

**October 6-9**

*Juvenile Detention: Building a Strong foundation*

## AGENDA

### *Tuesday, October 6*

**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting**

**2:30 PM – 6:00 PM JDCAP – Strategic Planning Session**

### *Wednesday, October 7*

**10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Registration**

**9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Administrative Council Meeting** (Private Lunch Included)

**11:45 – 12:45 PM Lunch on your own**

**1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Opening General Session**

Featured Speaker: Charles Kehoe

Change is occurring at “warp speed” in our world. If juvenile justice facilities and programs cannot keep up with the change they will fall behind, making it more difficult to find and keep qualified workers and to compete for limited tax dollars. The changes that are happening are happening both inside and outside of juvenile justice. In fact, most of what you need to know today to be a successful professional in the juvenile justice field is happening outside of juvenile justice. Come and join your colleagues in a stimulating, fast-paced, and information loaded workshop that may change the way you look at change.

**2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Afternoon Coffee Break**

**2:45 PM – 4:00 PM Breakout Sessions**

**5:30 PM – 9:00 PM Welcoming reception** (Hors D'Oeuvres)

### *Thursday, October 8*

**8:00 AM – 3:30 PM Registration**

**8:00 AM – 8:45 AM Continental Breakfast** (Included)

**9:00 AM – 11:45 AM General Session**

Acknowledging the truths behind a traumatic past, how it leads to the frustrating and threatening behaviors of offenders, and what to do about it!

Presenters: Michael E. Thomas

Current studies and research indicate that detention and residential facilities aren't equipped to care for young people who have special needs or trauma histories. As a result, eruptions of aggressive or avoidant behavior can leave residential staff feeling

frustrated or threatened by their behaviors, leading staff to either distance themselves from the residents or call for stricter controls (Abramovitz & Bloom, 2003). This cycle can sometimes place the detention and residential staff in the role of inadvertently making things worse for youth by triggering traumatic re-enactment and stress reactions. In some instances, well-intentioned interventions can be re-traumatizing to the youth, leading to aggressive outbursts and even injury of the youth and staff.

Michael E. Thomas, senior faculty member at The Sanctuary Institute of the Andrus Children's Center in Yonkers, New York, will engage in an interactive presentation and discussion focusing on the how-tos for staff in detention centers, focusing on the Sanctuary model and its relevance to juvenile justice programs. This model is a treatment and organizational model for creating trauma-informed and trauma-sensitive cultures in human service agencies. Part of the Sanctuary Model is a set of commitments that promote ethical behavior, create and maintain a non-violent culture, increase worker and client participation in the governance of an agency, and create a culture of inquiry and growth. Recognizing the uniqueness of Pennsylvania juvenile detention programs, this workshop will provide a general background and awareness of trauma and its effects on individuals and organizations with a discussion on how to implement the model in the complex and unique settings of juvenile justice programs. Please see [www.sanctuaryweb.com](http://www.sanctuaryweb.com) for more information.

**12:00 PM – 1:15 PM Lunch on your own**

**1:15 PM – 3:30 PM Breakout Session**

**1:30 PM – 2:45 PM Breakout Sessions**

**3:00 PM – 4:15 PM Breakout Sessions**

**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Reception**

**6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Banquet and Awards Ceremony** (Dinner Included)

### *Friday, October 9*

**9:30 AM – 10:15 AM Breakfast Buffet** (Included)

**10:30 AM – 11:30 AM Closing Speaker: Chuck Mazitti**

**11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Door Prizes, Closing Remarks and Certificates of Attendance**

# PAPPC Hosts 88<sup>th</sup> Training Institute

The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections (PAPPC) hosted its 88<sup>th</sup> Training Institute in Harrisburg on May 17-20, 2009. The theme for this year's institute was *Achieving Success and Identifying Solutions: Making Progress*. Following musical performances by Bill Bloom, and Welcome Remarks from the Honorable Bruce F. Bratton (Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas), Clay Yeager presented a dynamic and informative opening

Plenary Session, *Slow the Flow: The Power of Prevention and People to Reduce Crime in America*. Dr. Ron Sharp further reinforced this year's theme and inspired participants with his Closing Session presentation, *Human Service: The Science of Saving Lives*.

More than two hundred registrants had an

opportunity to participate in a variety of thirty-one workshops, including an Introduction to Occupational Spanish seminar on Sunday. Proceeds from the Silent Auction, conducted during the conference, will benefit Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Harrisburg and New Beginnings Youth and Adult Services, also of Harrisburg.



Steve Bishop presents donations to Big Brother/Big Sisters of Greater Harrisburg (left) and New Beginnings Youth and Adult Services (right).



PAPPC 2009 award recipients included: **Stephen Masciantonio**, Juvenile Corrections Professional of the Year; **Thomas J. Hughes**, Juvenile Justice Professional of the Year (bottom left); **Kristin Sayers**, Adult Corrections Professional of the Year; **Joseph Gillespie**, Adult Probation/Parole Officer of the Year; and **Thomas N. Costa**, Special Recognition (bottom right).

Thomas Hughes receives Juvenile Justice Professional of the Year Award.



Joseph Gillespie receives Adult Probation/Parole Officer of the Year Award.

The 89<sup>th</sup> PAPPC Training Institute will be held May 23-26, 2009 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Seven Springs, PA.

# National Juvenile Justice Announcements

The following June announcements are reprinted from [JUVJUST](#), an OJJDP news service:

## June 8, 2009 - Juvenile Court Judges Conference To Be Held in July



On July 12-15, 2009, in Chicago, IL the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges will hold its [annual national conference](#).

The conference will feature juvenile and family law topics, including trauma, custody and visitation, divorce, child abuse and neglect, truancy, domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, crossover youth, and substance abuse.

Resources:

To access additional information about the conference, including a conference brochure, and register online, visit <http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1204/315/>.

## June 15, 2009 - OJJDP Promotes Internet Safety

June is National Internet Safety Month. The purpose of this observance is to raise awareness of the dangers to which children may be exposed on the Internet and ways in which they can be protected from them.

Online safety is everyone's responsibility. Parents need to be vigilant about their children's use of the computer and cell phone. Teachers need to promote responsible Internet usage by students. Internet safety organizations need to help youth develop the decision-making skills needed to use the Web safely. Only through such coordinated efforts can we maximize the benefits of the Internet, while minimizing its dangers.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) supports a number of programs and activities designed to raise awareness about the importance of online safety and to help protect children and youth from online exploitation and victimization.

Resources:

To obtain further information about OJJDP supported initiatives to promote Internet safety, visit:

- [Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program](#)
- [Project Safe Childhood National Public Awareness Campaign](#)
- [NetSmartz](#)
- [Enough Is Enough](#)
- [i-SAFE](#)
- [WebWiseKids](#)
- [IKeepSafe Internet Safety Coalition](#)



## June 19, 2009 - OJJDP Fact Sheets Provide Data on Juveniles in Court

The [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) (OJJDP) has released four fact sheets providing data derived from the report "[Juvenile Court Statistics 2005](#)."

In 2005, U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction handled 1.7 million delinquency cases. One third of these cases received probation as the most serious disposition, and 25 percent of these cases involved personal offenses. For every 1,000 petitioned juvenile cases, 8 were waived to criminal court.

Resources:

"Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, 2005" is available online at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=246504>.

"Delinquency Cases Waived to Criminal Court, 2005" is available online at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=246505>.

"Juvenile Delinquency Probation Caseload, 2005" is available online at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=246502>.

"Person Offense Cases in Juvenile Court, 2005" is available online at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=246503>.

Mark your calendar!

Online registration at [www.jjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jjc.state.pa.us) will be available in August.

# The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

## November 4-6, 2009

at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

Sponsored by  
The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission  
The Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges  
The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers



### Youth Awards Program & Dinner

Wednesday, November 4

### Annual Training and Awards Program

Thursday, November 5

### Resource Day – 2009

Friday, November 6

The 2009 Annual Training and Awards Program will conclude by presenting Resource Day – 2009, during which representatives from residential programs, electronic monitoring companies, drug testing companies, and other service providers will “set up shop” to discuss their programs with the Pennsylvania juvenile justice community. This informal marketplace will offer an important opportunity for consumers to learn about new and innovative services.

### VENDOR INFORMATION AVAILABLE NOW!

Early Registration....\$400      After August 31st....\$500



For vendor information, please call Arlene L. Prentice,  
717-783-7836 or e-mail [aprentice@state.pa.us](mailto:aprentice@state.pa.us)

This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University. Guest articles are always welcome; please submit them by e-mail or on a disk. We particularly enjoy your photographs.

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