

Supreme Court of Pa. Approves Recommendations contained in Special Master's Third Interim Report regarding Luzerne County juvenile cases

On October 29, 2009, The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania ordered that the cases of all juveniles who were adjudicated delinquent or granted consent decrees by Judge Mark A. Ciavarella Jr. in Luzerne County during the period January 1, 2003 – May 31, 2008, and who are no longer under the supervision of the court and have fulfilled all court obligations, be vacated and that expungement of the records in these cases proceed.

[The Supreme Court's order](#) was issued in response to a [Third Interim Report and Recommendations](#) submitted on August 12, 2009 by Special Master Arthur E. Grim, Senior Judge in Berks County and Chairman of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Based on Ciavarella's prior admission that he received payments from a co-owner of Pa. Child Care and Western Pa. Child Care and from the developer who constructed these facilities during the period of time that he was presiding over juvenile matters in Luzerne County, the Supreme Court concluded that all adjudications and consent decrees entered by Ciavarella during the aforementioned period were tainted. Consequently, the Court's order applied to the cases of all such juveniles who appeared before Ciavarella and whose cases have since been closed...not just those who were unrepresented by counsel or who had been committed to one of the aforementioned facilities.

Also, under the Supreme Court's order, the Luzerne County District Attorney was given thirty days to submit a document under seal to Judge Grim identifying specific cases involving juveniles who remain under the jurisdiction of the court in which the District Attorney intends to pursue further delinquency proceedings. The District Attorney has since submitted this document, which identifies approximately 50 such cases. However, as prosecutors continue to meet with defense counsel, probation department officials and

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crime victims, it is anticipated that this number is likely to be further reduced. The Court's order directs that Judge Grim is to permit the juveniles in these cases to pursue claims of double-jeopardy or any other theory in support of an argument that re-prosecution should not be permitted. Judge Grim was directed to make further recommendations to the Court with respect to the disposition of the cases where the prospect of re-prosecution emerges. The Supreme Court has retained jurisdiction in this matter.

Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice Convenes Public Hearings

The Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice, established under [Act 32 of 2009](#) as enacted on August 7, 2009, has held three public hearings regarding Luzerne County's juvenile justice system. The Commission consists of 11 members, of which four, including the chairman were appointed by the Chief Justice; three by the Governor, and four by the leadership of the General Assembly, and is charged with ascertaining how the Luzerne County juvenile justice system failed, restoring public confidence in the administration of justice, and preventing similar events from occurring.

Following two organizational meetings in August and September, the Interbranch Commission convened its first public hearing in Harrisburg on October 14, 2009 ([Public Hearing Transcript - October 14, 2009](#)) for the purpose of providing background and context related to Luzerne County and Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. The Commission began to gather testimony from various individuals with knowledge of the Luzerne County situation in two subsequent public hearings in Wilkes-Barre on November 9 ([Public Hearing Transcript - November 9, 2009](#)) and November 10 ([Public Hearing Transcript - November 10, 2009](#)). The Interbranch Commission will again convene public hearings in Wilkes-Barre on December 7 & 8, 2009.

Act 49 of 2009 Increase in Judicial Computer System Fee

HB 1607(2747) which was signed into law by Governor Rendell as [Act 49 of 2009](#) on October 9, 2009 and will become effective on December 8, 2009, makes several changes to the current \$10 Judicial Computer System/Access to Justice (JCS/ATS) fee by amending 42 Pa.C.S. §3733 (a.1) and §3733.1. Act 49 states this fee shall be imposed upon conviction, guilty plea, or when a defendant is granted entry into Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) or any other pretrial diversionary program.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court adopted new financial regulations as required by Act 49 which were published in the [Pennsylvania Bulletin on November 14, 2009](#).

Pursuant to 204 Pa. Code § 29.351. Definitions (d) Court of Common Pleas. Clerk of Court (1), an additional fee of \$11.25 shall (for a period of 25 months ending January 7, 2012) be imposed upon conviction, guilty plea, or when a defendant is granted entry into Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) or any other pretrial diversionary program. Additionally, pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S. §3733.1, a permanent fee of \$2.25 shall be collected for similar cases. The collection of the total additional new surcharge/fee of \$23.50 shall begin on December 8, 2009. As indicated, please note that some of these changes are temporary and some are permanent.

Furthermore, 204 Pa. Code § 29.351. Definitions (d) Court of Common Pleas. Clerk of Court (1) iii, indicates that the initiation of a criminal proceeding includes cases involving juvenile defendants where a petition alleging delinquency has been filed in the Court of Common Pleas. We have been advised by AOPC that a consent decree is included in the description of "other pretrial diversionary program" and the \$23.50 will apply to all adjudications of delinquency and consent decrees.

Lastly, Act 49 states that the JCS/ATS fee shall remain \$10 for cases that involve charges in 75 Pa. C.S. (Relating to Vehicles) which are classified as summary offenses under a state statute or local ordinance.

YACC Program by District Judge Knapp and Family Service of Chester County Receives Award for Holding Young Adult Offenders Accountable to Victims and Community

Press Release – October 6, 2009

WEST CHESTER—Young Adult Community Conferencing (YACC), a restorative justice program established by Magisterial District Judge Gwenn S. Knapp, has been unanimously selected as the recipient of the 2009 John Neufeld Award. The award praises YACC's alternative approach to confronting primarily alcohol fueled offenses in West Chester District Court 15-1-04 by holding young adult offenders ages 18 to 24 personally accountable to their victims and community.

The John Neufeld Award is presented annually by the Mid-Atlantic Association for Court Management to an individual or group of individuals who develop or implement a significant or unique educational program or court management system in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Judge Knapp decided to establish YACC in District Court 15-1-04 after confronting an overwhelming number of alcohol-related cases. "Public drunkenness, noise violations, disorderly conduct and underage drinking in West Chester occur at a rate disproportionate to the size of the town," says Judge Knapp. "I see case after case in my courtroom, with a high recidivism rate among young people in the 18 to 24 age range. It was evident that we need an alternative to merely issuing penalty fines; an alternative that helps young people understand the consequences of alcohol abuse upon themselves and others."

The YACC program requires young adult offenders to meet in conference with volunteer representatives of the victim community, including the person(s) violated by their offense (if available). A facilitator directs the meeting and together they all determine appropriate consequences for the young

adult, including alcohol awareness classes, meaningful community service, and projects arising from the individual's career goals, which will help them to concretely and symbolically repair the harm done.

"This model of conferencing is designed to help young people grasp their responsibility and become more accountable for their behavior," explains Burroughs P. Mack, MSS and Executive Director of Family Service of Chester County. In May 2009, YACC became a program of Family Service of Chester County to extend the YACC's connection and commitment to the community.

"YACC is the only restorative justice alternative for the young adult 18 to 24 age group in Pennsylvania," says Mack. "The goal of YACC is to reduce the number of alcohol-related offenses and repeat offenses among this age group and to involve the community in the solution."

"We are very pleased to receive the John Neufeld Award from the Mid-Atlantic Association for Court Management," says Judge Knapp. "It attests to the importance of the YACC program and to the importance of helping young adults to make amends in a positive way."

To learn more about the YACC program, visit www.familyservice.us/yacc.html.

Family Service of Chester County is a not-for-profit organization providing counseling, mental health treatment, and specialized support programs to people of all ages and backgrounds in Chester County, regardless of financial resources or language of origin. For more information, visit www.familyservice.us or call 610-696-4900.

2009 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

The 2009 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 4-6, 2009 at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers. This year, nearly 1,000 individuals registered for the conference.

Professional Caucuses

The Conference began on November 4th, 2009, 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 2009 Youth Awards Program was held on Wednesday evening, November 4th, and was attended by more than 500 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 Janice Higgins, who shared her compelling story of child abuse, drug addiction, and incarceration. She described the rage that develops when there are no parents to listen and support a child. After transforming her life, she founded Project RAGE (Release Anger and Guilt for Empowerment), an organization dedicated to coaching young people on how to deal with anger and guilt through

positive and empowering experiences. She now travels extensively, sharing her life's story and delivering an inspirational message of encouragement to young people and parents.

Additional information regarding Ms. Higgins can be found at www.janicehiggins.com.

Conference Welcome and Keynote Presentation

On Thursday morning, November 5th, 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.

The Keynote Presentation was provided by Shay Bilchik, founder and Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute, which was created to focus the attention of the nation's public agency leaders on the components of a strong juvenile justice system reform agenda. Prior to joining the institute in 2007, Shay was the President and CEO of the Child Welfare League of America, a position he held since 2000. From 1994-2000, Mr. Bilchik was the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in the U.S. Department of Justice, where he advocated for, and supported, a balanced and multi-systems approach to attacking juvenile crime and addressing child victimization.

During his Keynote Presentation, **"If We Knew Then What We Know Now: Implications for Juvenile Justice Policy in America"**, Mr. Bilchik addressed our ability to use current research to create and sustain a more humane and effective response to juvenile crime, and the policy, practice and leadership implications related to these efforts.



Workshops

Over 700 people registered to attend twenty-eight different workshops on Thursday, November 5th. The workshops included:

Morning Workshops

- ACT 21 – Sex Offender Treatment and Involuntary Commitment in Pennsylvania
- Dauphin County’s Neighborhood Reporting Center
 - The Power of the Press - Learning to Effectively Work with Reporters
- The MfC Aftercare Initiative: Successful Approaches to Enhancing Aftercare Services
- Trauma Informed Care Promotes Balanced & Restorative Justice
- Multi-systemic Therapy (MST) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT): Promoting Fidelity to Maximize Positive Outcomes for Delinquent Children
- Raising the Bar: Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice Quality Improvement Initiative
- Mental Health Treatment for Juvenile Firesetters
- Putting Research into Practice: Opportunities for System Enhancement through the JCJC-sponsored Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University
- The MfC Disproportionate Minority Contact Initiative: Berks County’s Evening Reporting Center and Secure Detention Assessment Instrument
- Keys to Engaging Families in Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System
- The MfC Mental Health / Juvenile Justice Coordination Initiative: Successful Approaches to Enhancing Mental Health Services
- Implementing the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) in Pa.
- Family Group Decision Making in Juvenile Justice: The Dauphin County Model



Afternoon Workshops

- Treating Adolescents with Sexually Abusive Behaviors
- Effectuating Search and Seizure Law and Practice for Juvenile Probation Officers
- Avoiding Even the Appearance of Impropriety: Ensuring the Highest of Ethical Standards in Private Sector-Court Interactions
- Pennsylvania’s Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS) Center
- Probation Case Management Essentials: A First Look
 - Victims of Juvenile Offenders: Making the Bill of Rights a Reality
- The Assessment and Treatment of Juveniles with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Pennsylvania’s Guiding Principles for Gender Responsiveness in the Juvenile Justice System
- Pa. Academic and Career Technical Training Alliance: Enhancing the Competencies of Delinquent Youth
- Working with Individuals Living in Poverty
 - Improving Diversion Policies and Practices in Pennsylvania
 - Restorative Group Conferencing in Chester and Venango Counties
 - Is Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Linked to Youth Suicide?
- Youth Asset Councils: Utilizing the CTC Model, Youth and the Pennsylvania Youth Survey for Prevention Planning



Juvenile Defender Training

Over sixty juvenile defenders from across Pennsylvania attended the 2009 Conference on Juvenile Justice, and participated in a separate training track developed exclusively for them on Thursday, November 5th. Presentations for juvenile defenders included: Eyewitness Identification-Science, Legal and Strategic Issues; Reforming Caseload Standards in PA; Education Law Training; PA Sentencing Guidelines; and Ethics in Dispositional Representation. A "Judges Roundtable" was also held at which time juvenile court judges joined the defenders for lunch.



Thursday Afternoon Plenary Session

Keith Snyder, Deputy Director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, moderated a panel discussion during the afternoon plenary session entitled "**Prioritizing Family Engagement in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System**". Panel members included: Susan Blackburn, Balanced and Restorative Justice Specialist for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission; Rayon Braxton, a Dauphin County youth, member of their Systems of Care Youth committee, and past participant in a Family Group Decision Making conference; Ka'neice Foster, a Dauphin County youth, member of their Systems of Care Youth committee, and past participant in a Family Group Decision Making conference; Wendy Luckenbill, Child Policy

Coordinator for the PA Mental Health Association; Sandra Moore, Administrator of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Office of Children and Families in the Courts within the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC); Stephen Suknaic, Director of the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Office; Troy Tate, Dauphin County parent, co-chair of their Systems of Care Parent Advisory committee, and past participant in a Family Group Decision Making conferences; and Clay Yeager, founder and CEO of the consulting firm, The Yeager Group.

During this session, Keith guided the panel in a candid discussion about proven models that advance family involvement, and on how to better engage families of court-involved youth in meaningful ways throughout the juvenile justice process.

Annual Awards Program and Dinner

Thursday's activities concluded with the 29th 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

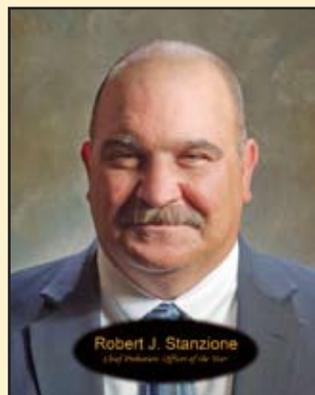
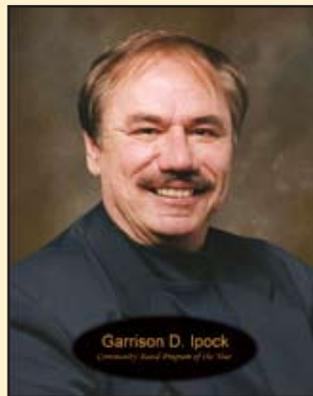
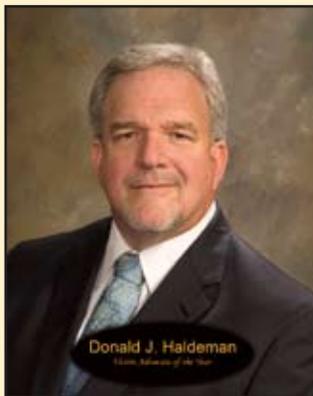
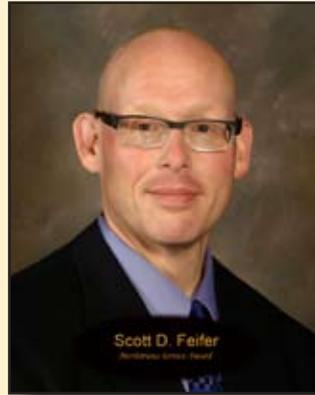
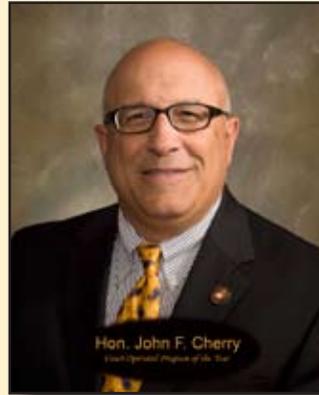
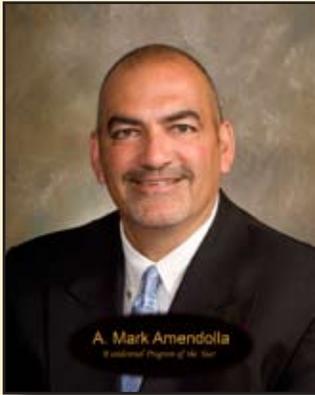
A forum for individuals involved with the MacArthur Foundation/Pennsylvania Models for Change was held on Friday morning, November 6. Bob Schwartz, Executive Director of the Juvenile Law Center and Cathryn Crawford, of the MacArthur Foundation, welcomed participants and gave a brief overview of the Models for Change initiative. Robert Listenbee and Rhonda McKitten, of the Philadelphia Juvenile Defender Unit, provided an introduction to the Philadelphia Minority Youth/Law Enforcement Curriculum. Additionally, Dana Shoenberg, of the Center for Children's Law Policy, Jeff Gregro and Laura Hague, of the Berks County Juvenile Probation Department, gave an overview of the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) activities in Berks County, including the use of their detention screening instrument and the newly initiated evening reporting center. The presentations were well received by those in attendance.

Resource Day

The 2009 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.

Juvenile Court Judges' Commission congratulates all of the

2009 Award Winners



Congratulations!

Group starts cleaning illegal dumps: Three (Warren) county dumps tackled

Reprinted with permission from *The Times Observer*

By Brian Ferry; October 21, 2009 <http://www.timesobserver.com/page/content.detail/id/523338.html>

Several spots in Warren County are a lot more scenic now, thanks to the efforts of Pennsylvania Cleanways.

On Tuesday, five people – two from Cleanways and three from the U.S. Forest Service – cleaned up an illegal dump site in Sheffield Township. It was the third dump of the week for Stefanie Chitester of PA Cleanways.

The Four Mile Road site included several rusted refrigerators, metal barrels, and mattress springs, she said.

The crew hauled out between three-quarters of a ton and a ton from the site.

“The goal is to pick up any visible garbage,” Chitester said. “Garbage attracts garbage.”

She said cleaning an area up makes it less likely people looking to dump will pick that spot.

The scenic section of Fourmile Run is used by picnickers and campers despite the dump, she said. During PA Cleanways’ dump surveying in the spring, six tents were set up along the stream with old appliances and metal trash all around.



On Saturday a group including eight teenagers in the Warren County Juvenile Probation system and their supervisors [Mike Lion, Intake officer; Craig Garza,

Intensive Drug and Alcohol officer; and Jeff Blair, Deputy Chief] joined the agency in cleaning hundreds of tires out of a dump off of Panther Gap Road in Freehold Township.

“We filled two 30-yard roll-offs with tires,” Chitester said. “There’s enough to fill two more.”



Monday morning’s effort was at Brown Run Road in Mead Township. Of the ton-and-a-half of garbage removed there, much of it was television sets. “They’re starting to show up more in dump sites,” Chitester said.

Much of the problem of illegal dumps stems from people not knowing what they can do with junk appliances, tires, and other items.

Waste removal companies will take certain items for free and will take others for a fee. Scrap metal yards will take some items. Many garages that sell tires will take old tires for a fee, Chitester said.

Another situation that leads to dumping in rural areas is the lack of municipal garbage collection and recycling, according to PA Cleanways.

The workers did not remove all of the offensive material from the site, only what they could see. Finding and removing buried garbage requires more equipment, time and money, Chitester said.

The crew also did not remove yard waste, though there was plenty of it.

Yard waste can be composted. “If you can compost it yourself, that’s great,” she said. “They should not dump it on someone else’s property.”

Funding for the effort, both the survey and the cleanup, comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Utilities Program.

Chitester said the agency determines what dump sites it will work on based in large part on funding. “We have to do clean-ups where we have funding,” she said.

PA Cleanways has target townships and has to give priority to those areas.

She said no more clean-ups will be done in Warren County this fall, but the group will return in the spring and continue working on the 59 sites identified in the county-wide survey.

Only 10 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties have fewer illegal dumps than Warren County. Clarion County has almost 100, while Westmoreland County has about 300, according to the surveys.

The time spent cleaning dump sites is well spent, Chitester said. “I think it looks a lot better,” she said when the work was done on Tuesday. “It’s such a pretty spot. Why would you put crap here?”

“We’re hoping people don’t do it again,” she said.





Dauphin County FGC Advanced Skills Training

Monday & Tuesday
December 14-15, 2009
from
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Registration:
December 14, 2009- 8:00-8:30 AM

Location:
New Hope Church
584 Colonial Club Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112

Please RSVP:
Danielle Love at dlove@ittakesavillageinc.com

By Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Pre-Requisite:
Dauphin County FGC 1-Day Overview Training

"NASW-PA Chapter is a co-sponsor of this workshop. 15.0 CE's will be awarded for completion of this course. NASW has been designated as a pre-approved provider of professional continuing education for social workers (Section 47.36), Marriage and Family Therapist (Section 48.36) and Professional Counselors (Section 49.36) by the PA State Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors."



Dauphin County FGC Overview Training

Monday, December 7, 2009 from
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Registration:

9:30-10:00 AM

Location:

New Hope Church
584 Colonial Club Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112

Please RSVP:

Danielle Love at dlove@ittakesavillageinc.com

By Tuesday, December 1, 2009

"NASW-PA Chapter is a co-sponsor of this workshop. 5.0 CE's will be awarded for completion of this course. NASW has been designated as a pre-approved provider of professional continuing education for social workers (Section 47.36), Marriage and Family Therapist (Section 48.36) and Professional Counselors (Section 49.36) by the PA State Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors."

Save the Dates...

**PCCYFS Annual Spring Conference
April 7-8, 2010
Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel**



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Practice
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Thursday, April 8

Diversity/Outcomes
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Leadership
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717-651-1725
www.pccyfs.org**

Chief's Council and JCJC Host Orientation Program for New CJPOs

The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission hosted an orientation program for new chief juvenile probation officers on Thursday, October 15, 2009. Twenty-four individuals participated in the program, including twelve who had been appointed to a chief position since the last orientation session was held in 2004. Additional participants included several deputy chief juvenile probation officers and supervisors. In all, eighteen counties were represented.

The program, held at the Days Inn, State College, featured presentations by various JCJC

staff, chief juvenile probation officers, and Mike Pennington of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Programs reviewed included: the JCJC grant-in-aid; juvenile court standards; the specialized probation services program and audits; juvenile justice system outcome measures; the Models for Change initiative; court service visits; detention monitoring; training requirements and funding; the graduate education program and enrollment process; the statistical analysis of the Center's disposition reporting and statewide automation; the Juvenile Act and legislation; balanced and restorative justice; the JCJC website; needs-based

planning; funding streams and interaction with state/local children and youth agencies; probation officer ethics; the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency; and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

All participants were also invited to attend the executive committee meeting of the Chief's Council held the following day. Participants were encouraged to become active members in the Council, and were extended an invitation to participate on the various committees of the organization. The program was well received, and is expected to be repeated on a biannual basis in the future.

Pennsylvania System of Care Partnership Announcement

Pennsylvania has been awarded a federal grant to develop Systems of Care to serve youth ages 8-18 that have serious mental health needs, and their families. These youth are also involved with the child welfare or juvenile justice, and are in or at risk of out-of-home placement. The \$9 million grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) covers 6 years and will be implemented in fifteen Pennsylvania counties. Through the support of this grant, Pennsylvania becomes part of the national movement to utilize organized multi-level systems to more effectively serve youth with serious behavioral health challenges, and their families.

A State Leadership Team comprised equally of youth and family representatives and top officials from Mental Health, Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and the Governor's Commission on Youth and Families, will be responsible for the Pennsylvania System of Care Partnership. Comparable youth, family and professional governance structures will also be established in the partner Counties.

The Youth and Family Training Institute, a division of the University of Pittsburgh and Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC, will support, monitor, and evaluate the System of Care development in the counties. Fifteen counties, identified during the planning year on the basis of need, commitment, and readiness will establish the infrastructure to build systems that work together with the youth and family, integrate professional services, and utilize the natural supports that exist in families and communities throughout Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania System of Care Partnership will transform the current categorical and fragmented service delivery approach into a comprehensive community-oriented delivery system.

The System of Care Partnership will build on and enhance cross system efforts that have been underway for several years to integrate and more effectively provide services to youth. Each participating county will utilize the practice model defined by the National Wraparound Initiative to serve at least 50 youth annually, with over 1,000 youth and families to be served during the course of the SAMHSA grant. The ultimate vision is that Pennsylvania will eventually expand the structured approach to System of Care development to all Pennsylvania counties.

For additional information, contact Stan Mrozowski, Director, Children's Bureau, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, 717-772-7763, or smrozowski@state.pa.us

JDCAP Conference held in State College

The Juvenile Detention Centers' Association of Pennsylvania (JDCAP) held their annual conference at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College PA from Oct 6-9, 2009. The conference, themed "Juvenile Detention: Building A Strong Foundation" was well attended given the fiscal uncertainty of the time. Conference attendees were welcomed to Centre County by County Commissioner Rich Rogers, who expressed his support and recognition of youth workers. Commissioner Rogers indicated his ongoing interest in youth issues as apparent from his experiences as a school board president and coach. The conference featured workshops identified to provide attendees with information on the future of juvenile justice, models for trauma informed care, drug and alcohol services, and other special population program approaches.

The Awards Banquet was honored to have Commissioner Joan Robinson McMillen, Chair person of the Clearfield County Commissioners and President of the Central Counties Youth Center Board of Directors, share experiences as Chair of the Board and as a former juvenile probation officer. This year, JDCAP recognized the following individuals for their outstanding service and achievement:

Megan Delaney, Chester County Youth Center – Rookie Staff of the Year

Justin Williams, Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center – Staff Person of the Year

David Wilson, Shuman Detention Center, Allegheny County – Educator of the Year

Rachel Alexander RN, Shuman Detention Center, Allegheny County – Nurse of the Year

Brian Boger, Bucks County Youth Center – Distinguished Service Award Within the Field of Juvenile Detention

Elbert Gray Sr., Director of One Life One Vision – Distinguished Service Award Outside the Field of Juvenile Detention

Shuman Community News, Shuman Detention Center, Allegheny County – Special Program of the Year

Shooflymoonpie Art Mural Project, Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center – Special Event of the Year

Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center was recognized for their accomplishments and support to the association with the President's Award. Kristina T., a Chester County youth who was accompanied by her proud father, was the winner of the annual poster contest. As the winner, Kristina received a one hundred dollar savings bond for her entry.

Elections for the offices of Secretary, Treasurer and Training Chair took place during the conference. Candidates for these offices ran unopposed with Drew Fredericks, Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center becoming the Secretary; Dan Kern, Dauphin County's Herbert H. Schaffner Youth Center, Treasurer, and Lee Covell, Berks County Youth Center, Training Chair.

JDCAP's 2010 Annual Conference will be held in October at the Lancaster Host, Lancaster.

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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