

# PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
Edward G. Rendell, Governor



## Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

Volume 18, Number 12

### Patricia Torbet Honored as Champion for Change in Juvenile Justice Reform

Pittsburgh, PA (December 8, 2010) - Patricia Torbet, recently retired Senior Research Associate at the National Center for Juvenile Justice, was named as the Pennsylvania Champion for Change for her work in support of the MacArthur Foundation's *Models for Change*. She was recognized at the Fifth Annual *Models for Change* systems reform in juvenile justice national conference in Washington, D.C. for her 30 years of dedicated efforts to help juvenile justice systems do a better job of meeting the needs of young people. Ms. Torbet was joined by honorees from three other states participating in the initiative - Louisiana, Washington and Illinois.



Pictured left to right Laurie R. Garduque, MacArthur Foundation, Patricia Torbet, National Center for Juvenile Justice, and Robert Schwartz, Juvenile Law Center

When Pennsylvania was chosen as the first Models for Change core state and local leaders had to figure out how to make it work, Pat Torbet was on the job. In fact, for more than 30 years she has been on the front lines helping to identify ways to improve juvenile justice systems.

“Pat’s influence comes not only from what she knows, but from who she is, what she does, and how she does it,” said Robert Schwartz, Executive Director, Juvenile Law Center. “She is brilliant and modest, highly collaborative, and attentive to concerns of everyone in the Pennsylvania system, from county staff to statewide policy makers. Pat is one of the most knowledgeable researchers in the country, and she is acutely in tune with how research affects policy and practice.”

A nationally recognized expert on probation practices, Pat’s contributions have resulted in Pennsylvania becoming a national leader in aftercare practices for

### INSIDE:

- ***New Approach to Improve the Effectiveness of Juvenile Justice Programs***
- ***Task Force Convenes School Forums in Luzerne County***
- ***2011 CCYFS Annual Conference***
- ***2010 Professional Caucuses Highlighted***
- ***2011 Staff Development Schedule***
- ***Other trainings around the state***
- ***Proposed Rule Changes Announced***
- ***Save the Date***
- ***National Juvenile Justice Announcements***
- ***Westmoreland Juvenile Court Celebrates***

*Continued on Page 3*



## Center Presents New Approach to Improve the Effectiveness of Juvenile Justice Programs

Washington, D.C. – Georgetown Public Policy Institute’s Center for Juvenile Justice Reform recently released a paper titled [“Improving the Effectiveness of Juvenile Justice Programs: A New Perspective on Evidence-Based Practice”](#) at a symposium at the Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center. The paper is co-authored by Mark W. Lipsey, James C. Howell, Marion R. Kelly, Gabrielle Chapman, and Darin Carver.

The paper presents a new approach to evidence-based practice that will produce better outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The paper begins with an overview of the different approaches to evidence-based practice and introduces a tool Dr. Lipsey has developed to better make use of our vast knowledge base. It then embeds this new approach within a comprehensive juvenile justice framework that will allow our increased knowledge to benefit the entire juvenile justice continuum, rather than a handful programs serving a limited number of youth.

For years, states have struggled with how to implement the most effective treatment programs to reduce recidivism rates. As the authors state, “Translation of research into practice is always a challenge, but it has been exacerbated...by overly narrow conceptions of how research should be used to inform juvenile justice practice.” Several individual programs have been found to be successful and promoted by national organizations, but it is often difficult to replicate the circumstances that contributed to their effectiveness, they are costly to implement and they are often used to the detriment of local programs that produce positive outcomes, but do not have the research base to qualify as a “model program.” For these reasons, there has been a struggle in taking evidence-based practices to scale, and therefore, the scope of their benefits has been limited.

The framework for evidence-based practice described in this paper offers a solution by presenting a tool that can be used to measure the effectiveness of a variety of existing juvenile justice programs and provide recommendations on how to improve them. The tool, developed by Dr. Mark W. Lipsey, was developed by analyzing hundreds of studies to determine best practices for juvenile justice programming. This approach overcomes the main barriers holding states back from implementing model programs by having states retain and refine their own programs that are shown to follow the best practice guidelines.

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“What’s more is that this new approach embeds this tool within a larger juvenile justice framework. It is not just about evaluating programs, but ensuring that there is a sufficient array of programs available, that youth are matched to appropriate services based on risk and need and that services are evaluated to determine if we are achieving the outcomes the science tells us we should be able to realize,” said Shay Bilchik, director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and research professor at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. “This is what has often been missing from the evidence-based practice conversation in the past.”

Jurisdictions doing promising work on this issue were featured at the symposium. Among featured speakers was Laurie Robinson, Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice,

## *Pat Torbet, Champion for Change - Continued from front page*

youth in placement. Her passion, dedication, and relentless efforts to advance juvenile justice reform through the provision of research and technical assistance stretch well beyond her home state and Models for Change.

Models for Change is the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's \$140 million national initiative to reform juvenile justice across the country. Sixteen states are now involved – four working on a range of state and local reforms, and 12 as part of three action networks focusing on reducing racial and ethnic disparities, disproportionate minority contact, mental health, and now, juvenile indigent defense.

With a favorable reform climate, strong public-private partnerships, demonstrated success in juvenile justice reforms, Pennsylvania was the first state chosen to participate in the Models for Change initiative. Reform efforts in Pennsylvania are focusing on bringing about change in three areas: the coordination of the mental health and juvenile justice systems; the system of aftercare services and supports; and disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system.

Models for Change is an effort to create successful and replicable models of juvenile justice reform, through targeted investments in key states, with core support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Models for Change seeks to accelerate progress toward a more effective, fair, and developmentally sound juvenile justice system that holds young people accountable for their actions, provides for their rehabilitation, protects them from harm, increases their life chances, and manages the risk they pose to themselves and to the public.

The initiative is underway in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Washington and, through action networks focusing on key issues, in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin. For more information, visit [www.modelsforchange.net](http://www.modelsforchange.net).

## *Center for Juvenile Justice Reform - Continued from Page 2*

who delivered the opening plenary address. The invitation-only event included a panel discussion with the authors as well as a panel of policy experts who discussed the implications of the paper on federal and state law and practice. At the symposium, CJJR announced that it is launching a new program to help states implement this approach in their jurisdictions.

Ultimately, it is hoped that this effort will help juvenile justice systems enhance the effectiveness of their interventions and achieve more positive outcomes for the youth they serve.

The paper and symposium materials are available on the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform's Web site at <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/>

## Task Force Convenes School Forums in Luzerne County

The Luzerne County Juvenile Justice Task Force recently convened informational forums for school principals and other school officials throughout the county. The three 2 ½-hour forums were held on December 10 and 15, 2010 and were hosted by the Luzerne Intermediate Unit and Wilkes University. Over 100 individuals attended the forums to begin to open a dialogue between the Juvenile Court and the school system.

The Honorable Tina Polacheck Gartley, Luzerne County Judge, welcomed the attendees and provided an overview of the Juvenile Justice Task Force. She was followed with special remarks from Judy Shopp, Esquire, Chief Counsel for the State Department of Education and Susan Blackburn, Balanced and Restorative Justice Specialist with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

A panel consisting of various members of the task force provided attendees with information and updates on the juvenile justice system. The panel was moderated by task force member and Luzerne County Juvenile Probation Officer, Theresa Kline. Mary Jo Shisko, Interagency Coordinator for the Luzerne Intermediate Unit and also a task force member, assisted with the logistical planning for the day.

The remainder of the panel presentation was comprised of officials of Luzerne County: The Honorable David Lupas, Juvenile Court Judge; Jacqueline Musto Carroll, Esquire, District Attorney; Jeffrey Tokach, Assistant District Attorney; Al Flora, Jr., Esquire, Chief Public Defender; John Johnson, Deputy Chief, Juvenile Probation; and Joseph DeVizia, Executive Director of the Luzerne County Office of Human Services. The forum was then opened for an exchange of questions and answers and to begin a dialogue between the court and the school officials.

Judge Lupas spoke of the importance of the juvenile system working together with the school system, as well as his role as the judge who presides over juvenile hearings. He asserted, "There's a lot of positive work going on in the juvenile justice system."

The forum also highlighted the numerous advancements made throughout the Luzerne County Juvenile Court. Panel members touted several program enhancements, such as: the initiation of a Juvenile Delinquency Roundtable to address issues and to inspire cooperation and coordination within the county; the development of a Youth Aid Panel Program to assist in the diversion of youth from formal juvenile court proceedings; an expanded Juvenile Unit in the Public Defender's Office that includes additional attorneys and a social worker assigned solely to the Juvenile Court; and an additional Assistant District Attorney whose focus is on juvenile justice.

Additionally, District Attorney Jacqueline Musto Carroll and Assistant District Attorney Jeffrey Tokach explained an educational outreach program, with which they are both involved. The program - 2Smart4Trbl - is being presented to middle schools throughout the county. Carroll states that they have addressed over 5,000 young people in the past several months.

The Luzerne County Juvenile Justice Task Force, a consortium of state and county level stakeholders, will continue to focus on the human service and juvenile justice needs of Luzerne County. They will continue to work toward ensuring on-going coordination and cooperation and to keep those who work in the school community informed about changing services.

2011 PCCYFS  
Annual Spring Conference  
&  
Anniversary Celebration



*Save the dates ... Plan Now to Register!!!*

**PCCYFS Pre-Conference Institutes, April 12, 2011**

**PCCYFS Annual Spring Conference, April 13 – 14, 2011**

**“Making a Difference for 35 Years... One Child at a Time”**

It is with great pride and pleasure that the Pennsylvania Council of Children Youth and Family Services is announcing our annual spring event. Special this year, in recognition of our 35<sup>th</sup> year celebration, are five Pre-Conference Institutes offering intensive learning opportunities on priority topics.

The agenda for the two-day 2011 PCCYFS Annual Spring Conference is responsive to the complex and challenging environment in which we work. It is reflective of the focus on the difference we make every day for each individual child and family we serve, and is filled with opportunities for professional development, fun, networking and fellowship.

The keynote address will be delivered by **Dr. Kevin Elko** – the nationally renowned performance consultant, professional motivational speaker and author who is one of the hottest inspirational presenters in the country today.

The caliber of the conference once again reflects the hard work of our conference planning workgroup in putting together a timely and topical two-day event. ***Please review the material, select the sessions of interest to you, reserve your hotel room and register ASAP to ensure your place at this annual event!***

***Look for the brochure and PayPal registration options on our [website](#).***

We also encourage you to share this information and invite others to join us at the Sheraton Harrisburg–Hershey Hotel, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg on April 12-14, 2011!

**Hotel Information:** For lodging reservations, please contact the [Sheraton](#) directly at 717.564.5511 or online at the [Sheraton website](#). Mention the PCCYFS Group for the reduced rate of **\$94.00** single/double occupancy plus applicable taxes. ***This rate is only available until March 29, 2011.*** Parking is free.



## 2010 Professional Caucuses Highlighted

Participants in the 2010 Conference on Juvenile Justice had an opportunity to join with colleagues from their area of specialty within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 3, 2010.

Approximately 30 **juvenile court judges and juvenile court masters**, including Judge Steven Teske from Clayton County, Georgia, attended the judges' caucus. Issues discussed included: the availability of secure detention beds; the transfer of inter-county cases; the Superior Court case of In Re: M.W.; the Interstate Compact on Juvenile Justice; the presumption of indigence for the purpose of appointing counsel; Act 53; the formality of court room proceedings; visiting children in placement; and community engagement.

Over 30 **chief and deputy chief juvenile probation officers** were provided updates from Bob Stanzione, President of the Pa. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, about issues that included: the PCCJPO's endorsement of the juvenile justice system enhancement strategy (JJSES), including implementation of evidence-based practices (EBP) at all stages of the system; an overview of EBP's relative to juvenile justice; the potential impact of the proposed Pa. R.J.C.P 610; and the impact of Act 96 which allows for the use of detention of direct file juveniles. The group also discussed the critical role of service providers in the development of evidence-based practices and reviewed some of the key activities and progress of the Pa. Academic, Career and Technology (PACTT) Alliance initiative. The use of detention risk assessment instruments was reviewed, with particular attention to the Berks County experience where Chief Bob Williams explained how the practice has led to more consistent and structured decision making in these situations. A general discussion also ensued regarding statewide detention capacity and potential alternative uses for currently underutilized space.

**Juvenile probation supervisors** discussed successful strategies for assisting probation staff in the transition that occurs when a new juvenile court judge takes the bench. They also explored their concern around issues of probation officer safety, particularly in light of the perception of increased incidents of violence towards their staff. Various county practices related to safety issues were shared. The group generally noted the increasing use of evidence-based practices, particularly the use of risk assessment instruments, and also built consensus around the importance and utility of increased juvenile justice system data collection and analysis. Each of the counties also briefly updated the group on their implementation of, and activities relating to, Shared Case Responsibility. In closing, the group recognized the key role that they, as supervisors, will have in the ultimate success of the system enhancement strategy in their jurisdictions.

Over 45 **juvenile probation officers** discussed a number of items including: the use of school-based Bullying Prevention Programs instituted in Allegheny and Philadelphia counties; the increasing use of new drugs of abuse such as K-2 and "Spice"; a discussion of the problems encountered by some officers in counties responsible to respond to truancy cases; and the perceived lack of independent living resources available to juveniles in many jurisdictions. In closing, the group held a lively discussion relating to the concept of the Evidence-Based Probation model.

The **victim service providers** caucus involved 13 participants, including several state victim service advocates and allied professionals from various county affiliations. The major topics of discussion included: the use of diversion in the juvenile justice system; restitution issues; activities to sustain attention to the rights and needs of juvenile crime victims; challenges to the funding of Victims of Juvenile Offenders (VOJO) activities; expungement activities and victim rights; and the victim related issues contained in the report of Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice.

Participants in the caucus for **service providers** focused on a number of issues related to their operations, including: ongoing budget and contracting process concerns; referral trends and service needs; the reduction in the numbers of residential placements; and the implementation and ongoing provision of evidence-based programs such as MST, FFT and MDTFC. Discussions on how to increase the collaboration with county juvenile probation departments for future activities and initiatives also occurred.

Feedback from each of the caucuses indicated that professionals appreciated the opportunity to meet with colleagues, and to share experiences about what they encounter on a daily basis. A summary of the information collected will be reviewed by JCJC staff and the Executive Committee of the Pa. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. The various caucus facilitators were instrumental in the success of each forum, and gratitude is extended to Judge John B. Leete, Robert Stanzione, Robert Tomassini, Thomas Hughes, Valerie Bender and Dave Mueller for their work. It is anticipated that the caucuses will again be part of the 2011 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.

## ***Staff Development Highlights:***

We invite you to review the initial selection of staff development programs assembled for the first six months of 2011 by clicking the link below. Other workshops may be added to our schedule in subsequent months that will be announced when they are released. You may also check the Training tab on the JCJC website for updates. This registration system is entirely new and of our own design. We think you will find it to be very user friendly.

### **Staff Development Schedule**

With this release, we will no longer be printing and mailing a staff development calendar. The entire schedule including dates, times, location, fees and hotel information may be reviewed on line and, if necessary, printed out from your desktop for circulation.

Individual users will create a “training account” utilizing their email address and a password that will enable them to register and modify their training registrations at any time. Users will need to create an account the first time they register because the participant lists from the prior system will not be transferred.

The new system has simplified the process for one person on your staff to serve as training coordinator. The training coordinator will be able to register your entire staff and take responsibility for future adjustments to training registrations. A complete history of your registrations, including dates and times of every adjustment, will be clearly visible along with providing easy tracking of the total registration fees due for individuals and agencies.

***We also invite you to check out some links to other trainings around the state.***

*The following trainings and their links are not sponsored by JCJC.*

#### **Stress Less**

January 19th 2011

#### **Stress in Adolescence**

February 2nd 2011

#### **Mental Health Issues in Adolescence**

March 2nd 2011

#### **Signs & Symptoms of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in the Adolescent Population**

March 23rd 2011

#### **Dauphin County FGC Overview Training**

January 10th, May 16th & September 19th 2011

#### **Dauphin County FGC Advanced Skills Training**

January 24-25th, May 26-27th & September 28-29th 2011

## *Proposed Rule Changes Announced*

### **Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee Submits Four Sets of Proposed Rules for Comment**

The Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee has submitted, for comment, the following four sets of rule proposals:

1. A proposed new [Rule 139](#) to address the use of restraints on a juvenile during a court proceeding. All comments regarding this proposed new rule must be received no later than January 11, 2011.
2. The modification of [Rules 241, 242, 311, 312, 500, 600, 610, and 632](#) to address a victim's right to be notified of a hearing, attend a hearing and offer testimony, and submit a victim-impact statement. All comments regarding these proposed modifications must be received no later than January 18, 2011.
3. The modification of [Rules 242, 394, 406, 512, and 800](#) to address the role of the attorney for the Commonwealth in presenting cases. All comments regarding these proposed modifications must be received no later than January 25, 2011.
4. The modification of [Rule 151](#) to address the presumption of indigence for juveniles. All comments must be received no later than February 1, 2011.

All of the above proposed rules changes can be viewed on [The Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee home page](#).

The Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee requests that all comments concerning the aforementioned proposals be submitted to the Committee through counsel, Christine Riscili, at [juvenerules@pacourts.us](mailto:juvenerules@pacourts.us).

# **SAVE THE DATE**



## **The 2011 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice**

**November 2-4, 2011**

*at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers*



Registration open in August: **[www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us)**



# National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

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## December 6, 2010 - OJJDP Bulletin Describes the Characteristics and Backgrounds of Youth in Placement

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published "[Youth's Characteristics and Backgrounds: Findings From the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement](#)."

The bulletin, part of OJJDP's Survey of Youth in Residential Placement series, describes the characteristics, family and educational backgrounds, offense histories, and expectations of youth in residential placement.

Resources: "Youth's Characteristics and Backgrounds: Findings From the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement" is available at [www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=249737](http://www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=249737).

Print copies can be ordered online from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. 

For further information about the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement, visit [www.syrp.org](http://www.syrp.org).

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## December 8, 2010 - Report Offers Information on School Crime and Victimization

The Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Statistics, in collaboration with the National Center for Education Statistics, has published the report, "[Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2010](#)."

The report draws on federally funded studies to present detailed statistical information about the crime that occurs in school and on the way to and from school. It presents data from the perspectives of students, teachers, and principals. Topics addressed include bullying, victimization, fights, weapons, drug and alcohol use by students, school conditions, and student perceptions of personal safety.

Resources: "Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2010" is available online at [bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs10.pdf](http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs10.pdf).

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## December 10, 2010 - Webinar to Address Service Provision for High-Risk Juvenile Offenders

On January 6, 2011, at 3 p.m. E.T., the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Court Coordination Program will host a free Webinar on providing community services for high-risk juvenile offenders.

"[Court Coordination Program: Thinking Small May Be the Best Way to Accomplish Something Big](#)" will help juvenile justice practitioners learn to leverage the authority of a juvenile court judge and gain the assistance of public and private agencies in offering services to high-risk juvenile offenders. This no-cost approach can help communities improve delivery of critical juvenile services.

Resources: To register online, visit [www.dsgonline.com/ccp/webinar/webinar.01.html](http://www.dsgonline.com/ccp/webinar/webinar.01.html).

For more information, contact Dave Marsden at [dmarsden@dsgonline.com](mailto:dmarsden@dsgonline.com) or 301-951-0056.

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# Westmoreland County Juvenile Court Celebrates Opening



*Westmoreland County Juvenile Services Center*

Not only will the Probation Department be housed there, but Detention, Shelter, and a Behavioral Health Unit. The detention space will house up to 16 delinquent youth, and the shelter will accommodate 8 dependent youth. By having the behavioral health unit on site no longer will it be necessary to transport youth across town for mental health or drug and alcohol evaluations.

The new juvenile probation offices will enable the staff to benefit from several conference and training rooms, something that will be truly valued.

The renovated center will save energy and money by means of a geothermal heating and cooling system, the first in a detention facility in

*Honorable Judge John J. Driscoll*

The Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Department officially opened its renovated \$4.2 million center in Greensburg on October 20th, 2010, during a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The building had originally been built in 1979.

Family Court Judge John Driscoll stated the center is a “break with the past”, describing the old center as “cold and severe.” In contrast, the newly transformed facility with its muted earth tones is both warmer and roomier.



*Director, Adeline Beighley cutting the ribbon with Judge Driscoll and County Officials*





# National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

*Continued from Page 9*

## December 14, 2010 - OJJDP Bulletin Provides Overview of Gang Prevention Research

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published "[Gang Prevention: An Overview of Research and Programs.](#)"

The bulletin presents an overview of gang research and programs in the United States and examines how gangs form and why youth join them. It also describes how community members can start assessing their gang problems and enhance prevention and intervention activities to help prevent delinquency and gang violence. The author identifies promising and effective programs for gang prevention.

Resources: "Gang Prevention: An Overview of Research and Programs" (NCJ 231116) is available at [www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=253165](http://www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=253165).

Print copies can be ordered online from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. 

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## December 14, 2010 - DOJ's Civil Rights Division Releases Anti-Bullying Video

On December 9, 2010, The Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division released a [video](#) that focuses on stopping bullying and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, as well as other youth who do not conform to traditional expectations about gender roles or appearance. The video is part of the Division's "It Gets Better" project, in which LGBT adults and straight allies share experiences to show youth that life gets better after high school.

The video features DOJ employees, who share stories of their own experiences with bullying and harassment and provide personal messages of support to youth. It emphasizes that DOJ is committed to ending bullying and harassment in schools, and highlights the Department's authority to enforce laws that protect students from bullying because of sexual orientation or gender stereotyping.

Resources: To view the video, visit [blogs.usdoj.gov/blog/](http://blogs.usdoj.gov/blog/).

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.

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