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Edward G. Rendell, Governor



Juvenile Justice

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Judge Steven C. Teske to Keynote 2010 PA Conference on Juvenile Justice



Judge Steven C. Teske, founder of the Child Welfare Policy Centers (CWPC) and sitting judge in Clayton County, Georgia, will deliver the keynote address on Thursday morning, November 4, 2010 at the 2010 Pennsylvania Conference on juvenile Justice.

Judge Teske is a highly regarded national expert on juvenile justice and child

welfare topics, including: detention reform; school to prison pipeline reform; legal representation of children in dependency and delinquency proceedings; and diversion and alternative sentencing. Judge Teske founded the CWPC as a vehicle to share with other jurisdictions and stakeholders, the tools that he acquired and developed to improve child welfare and juvenile justice in Clayton County, Georgia.

Prior to going into the practice of law and receiving a judicial seat, Judge Teske was employed with the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles as a parole officer in the inner city of Atlanta and later promoted to Chief of the Atlanta Parole District and Deputy Director of Field Services. It was during this time that he developed the award-winning Specialized Track and Phase Program (STAPP), which is based on a risk and needs classification system and the development of supervision tracks according to criminogenic needs. Since taking the bench, Judge Teske has been the architect of the highly-successful FAST-START Detention Alternative Program, for which he has received numerous awards and has published several articles.

Judge Teske is currently a gubernatorial appointee to the Judicial Advisory Council of the Board of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, the Governor's Office for Children and Families (Vice-Chair), and was nominated by the governor to serve on the Federal Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice. He is also chair of the Disproportionate Minority Committee (DMC) for the State of Georgia.

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Reminders:

REGISTRATION FOR NEW PROBATION OFFICER ORIENTATION TRAINING IS NOW OPEN. VISIT WWW.JCJC.STATE.PA.US TO SIGN UP!

THANKS TO THE PEOPLE:

Pair of veterans give flag from Afghanistan to county

Reprinted with permission from the Williamsport Sun-Gazette

By David Thompson; February 6, 2010

<http://www.sungazette.com/page/content.detail/id/522285.html?nav=5011>

County juvenile probation officers Matt Minnier and Larry Smith received a lot of support from their bosses and co-workers during their recent deployment to Afghanistan.

On Thursday, they presented an American flag to the county commissioners to show their gratitude for that support.

According to Minnier, the flag was flown on Sept. 11, 2008, at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan, "to say thanks to the people at home."

"We got a lot of support from the county," he said. "The people of the county supported us with gift boxes for the soldiers and the kids in Afghanistan."

Minnier said that both he and Smith, who were attached to the 3rd Battalion of the 103rd Armored Regiment, were in Afghanistan from December 2007 to December 2008.

Both men came back to their original positions, he said. Although by law, a similar position must be available to soldiers after they return from active duty, in many places "things are different when they come back," Minnier said.

The county, however, hired temporary staff to hold those positions while the two men were deployed.

Chief county clerk Fred Marty said chief juvenile probation officer Ed Robbins "had to handle (the situation) very delicately and did it very creatively."

Robbins brought in a retired probation officer and another part-timer to handle some of the workload, Marty said.

Co-workers and other county staff offered their support to the soldiers while they were deployed.

According to Anne Gehret, director of county Human Resources, Robbins relayed to county staff e-mailed requests for items from Minnier and Smith.

In the majority of cases, the requests were not for themselves, but for Afghan children, Gehret said.

"One thing I thought was pretty amazing, they always asked for things for the children and very little for themselves," she said. "I thought that was pretty unique.



From left, chief county clerk Fred Marty and Commissioner Ernie Larson accept a flag from Matt Minnier and Larry Smith, while Commissioner Jeff C. Wheeland looks on. Minnier and Smith, county juvenile probation officers, recently returned from military duty in Afghanistan.

"(County) employees were very, very willing to do whatever they could," she said.

Marty said "it was nice of (Minnier and Smith) to thank the county by bringing the flag back and giving it to the commissioners."

However, it should be the county and area citizens who should thank Minier and Smith for service they've given to their country, he said. Both have excelled in the civilian and military lives, he said.

"Both of those guys are really good guys, both in the work sense and in the military," he said. "They've continued to do their jobs while at the same time serving as citizen soldiers in the National Guard."

Minier and Smith "have served honorably and we are very proud of what they've done," he added.

"As a lot of them have done for years, when called, they respond," Marty said of those in Reserve or National Guard units. In fact, Marty is a retired Army brigadier general.

"There is a whole bunch of (people) out there like that, just in our metropolitan area," he added.

Educational Aftercare & Reintegration Toolkit

On-line Training Course for Juvenile Justice Professionals

The Education Law Center (ELC) is offering a new on-line training course based on its *Educational Aftercare & Reintegration Toolkit for Juvenile Justice Professionals*. Many juvenile justice professionals across Pennsylvania have already attended in-person trainings based on this *Toolkit*. Thanks to support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, ELC is now able to offer an on-line version of this training to juvenile justice professionals who are new to the field or who are unable to attend a live training.



The on-line training covers a wide variety of issues that impact youth involved in the delinquency system, include school enrollment, attendance, truancy, school discipline, and special education issues. The course includes ten quizzes which allow the user to interact with the course material.

This training course is free. There are no tuition fees or registration costs.

You will receive **four (4) credit hours** upon completion of the course. If you want to receive the credit hours for this course, you must complete the **entire** course, including all the quizzes. At the end of the course, you will be asked to provide an e-mail address for your department's training coordinator, your chief, your supervisor, or other appropriate person to whom notification of your completion of the course should be sent.

WHAT JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS ON-LINE COURSE:

The training material was great. As a school-based juvenile probation officer, it was good information to have to understand my role with the reintegration of juveniles placed in our system.

I liked the on-line training because I could complete it at my own pace, and it gave me plenty of time to complete the training, while still completing my daily tasks at work.

I enjoyed this training and I do believe that it is an excellent means of learning that should be distributed to all juvenile probation officers so they are informed on these often tricky policies and procedures.

TO REGISTER FOR THIS COURSE:

Go to www.elc-pa.org/jpo. (This course is designed to be viewed with Internet Explorer version 6 or higher, with JavaScript and Flash enabled. You can participate from any computer which has Internet access. If you have difficulty accessing the course or navigating through it, please contact Jennifer Lowman at the Education Law Center at 215-238-6970 ext. 312 or by e-mail at jlowman@elc-pa.org.)

A Note about the Hard Copy Version of the *Educational Aftercare & Reintegration Toolkit for Juvenile Justice Professionals*:

The on-line version of this training course is *not* identical to the hard copy version of the *Educational Aftercare & Reintegration Toolkit for Juvenile Justice Professionals*. The material presented in both versions is the same, but the manner of presentation is not identical. In particular, some of the Tools in the on-line version may be numbered differently than the Tools in the hard copy version of the *Toolkit*.

All juvenile probation officers should have received a hard copy of the *Educational Aftercare & Reintegration Toolkit for Juvenile Justice Professionals* (2009 ed.). If you do not have a copy of the 2009 *Toolkit*, a copy can be downloaded at: <http://www.elc-pa.org/pubs/downloads%202009/juvenilejusticetoolkit.pdf> or <http://www.modelsforchange.net/publications/225>.

PAPPC Hosts 89th Training Institute

The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections (PAPPC) hosted its 89th Training Institute at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA on May 23-25, 2010. The theme for this year's institute was Working Together/Working Smarter for Safer Communities. Following Welcome Remarks from the Honorable Jim Marker (Somerset County Commissioner), William Burrell presented an eye-opening and informative opening Plenary Session "Transforming Community Corrections: An urgent National Priority." Dr. Bruce Colbert provided conference attendees with fundamental skills for self-preservation with his Closing Session presentation "Thriving in Turbulent Times."

Approximately one hundred-eighty registrants had an opportunity to participate in a variety of twenty workshops. Proceeds from the Silent Auction, conducted during the conference, will benefit the Crime Victim Support Services Unit of Family and Children's Service of Blair County.

PAPPC 2010 award recipients included:

- Gary Blair, Juvenile Corrections Professional of the Year;
- Leo J. Lutz, Juvenile Justice Professional of the Year;
- Tim Smith, Adult Corrections Professional of the Year;
- David thorStraten-Mohr, Adult Probation/Parole Officer of the Year; and
- Samuel Amendola, Special Recognition.

The 90th PAPPC Training Institute will be held May 22-25, 2011 at the Radisson Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, PA.



Alternative Rehabilitation Communities Hosts 2010 Youth Anti-Gun Violence Summit

As Dr. Ronald Sharp, Director of Treatment Services for Alternative Rehabilitation Communities (ARC) and Chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency's (PCCD) Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJDP), asked approximately 200 ARC students to respond to a series of gun-related questions by standing. The responses were overwhelming. From having committed gun-related offenses, to knowing someone who has been the victim of a gun-related offense, to knowing a peer who carries a gun, more than 90% of the students were standing by the end of this exercise. It is with this understanding of the prevalence of gun-related activities among youth, that ARC hosted its third Youth Anti-Gun Violence Summit on May 4, 2010 at the National Guard Armory in Harrisburg. With strong support from the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Department – which first requested its providers to enhance the counseling, education, and activities related to youth gun violence in 2006 – this program explored how gun violence affects teenagers as perpetrators, victims, and bystanders, and provided alternatives to youth gun violence.

Dr. Ronald Sharp served as Master of Ceremonies, and Mr. Daniel Elby, CEO of ARC, provided opening comments and some context for the day's events. The day featured remarks by the following county and state-level stakeholders, each of whom provided information on gun violence. Michael Pennington, Director of PCCD's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; James Anderson, Executive Director of JCJC; Stephen Suknaic, Director of Dauphin County

Juvenile Probation; the Honorable John Cherry, Dauphin County Juvenile Court Judge; and the Honorable George Hartwick, Dauphin County Commissioner.

The keynote speaker for the day was Graham Hetrick, Dauphin County Coroner. His presentation entitled "Doors" emphasized the many doors (opportunities) that each student encounters in life. He gave examples of the many doors that he was able to open in his life which enabled his success, and encouraged students to be aware of and open the doors in their lives. He also provided some very sobering information on the effects of gun violence by showing a slideshow of autopsies of gunshot victims.

The most inspiring portion of the program, of course, was provided by the ARC students. Students from each of the ARC programs providing thought-provoking perspectives on gun violence, delivered in various creative formats ranging from dramatic skits to rap songs to testimonials to poetry readings. There was also an artistic expression competition and the winners' entries were displayed throughout the day.

At the end of the day, students were asked to sign an Anti-Gun Violence Pledge which was written by an ARC student. The personal commitment by the students to reject gun violence was a tangible step towards addressing the problem. The ARC family hopes to continue to make this program an annual event in an effort to continuously educate their students on this issue.

JCJC Graduate Education Program Accepting Applications for the Class of 2013

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2013 will begin classes in the fall of 2011. **The deadline to apply is September 1, 2010.**

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).

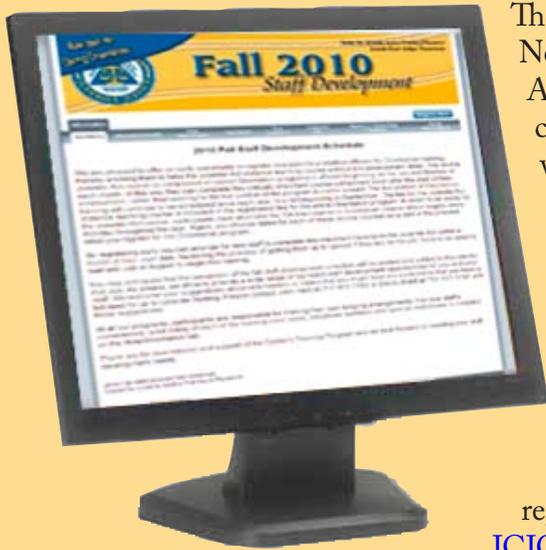
Classes in this two-year program are scheduled every third weekend in the fall, spring, and summer, with no classes

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 2010 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 any new juvenile probation officers who are planning to attend the Academy (August 30–September 3 & September 20–24) prior to attending the Academy. Departments should register staff for the on-line courses as soon as possible in anticipation of the fall Academy. The “On-line Learner’s Orientation” course starts each week on Mondays. The “Pennsylvania Juvenile Act” course will be offered the weeks of July 12–16, August 9–13, and September 13–17.

Registration for both on-line courses, as well as the two weeks of live training, is a single process – all covered by the \$350 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 cjctraining@ship.edu.



National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

June 7, 2010 - National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges To Hold Annual Conference



On July 18–21, 2010, in San Diego, CA, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges will hold its [annual national conference](#).

Conference participants will explore innovations in programming, opportunities for courts and communities, and assess the future of juvenile and family justice at this informative conference.

Resources: To access additional information about the conference, including a conference brochure, and register online, visit www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1264/315.

June 18, 2010 - Coalition for Juvenile Justice Issues Call for Presentations for DMC Conference



On October 23–25, 2010, in Jersey City, NJ, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice will host the national conference addressing disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in the juvenile justice system.

The Coalition, a national association of state juvenile justice advisory groups, has issued a [call for presentations](#). The deadline for prospective presenters to respond is July 22, 2010.

Resources: For further information, about the Coalition for Juvenile Justice’s call for presentations, visit [www.juvjustice.org/media/announcements/announcement link_155.pdf](http://www.juvjustice.org/media/announcements/announcement_link_155.pdf).

More County Perspectives on the Implementation of High Fidelity Wraparound

Allegheny County: The Coaches

As Allegheny County rolls out high fidelity wraparound, we are seeing dramatic changes not only in the lives of youth and families but also in the systems that are there to serve them. Families feel supported, respected and included and youth and young adults feel empowered, heard and understood.

One of the biggest changes is the partnership with youth and young adults that the process fosters. Youth are accustomed to being told what to do without being consulted. Understandably, they are hesitant to engage in the process at first because of the trauma and stereotyping they have experienced in the past, but as the team prepares and supports them prior to, during and after team meetings, they begin to engage because high fidelity wraparound is truly different. High fidelity wraparound has become a way to connect with families in a nonthreatening and non-judgmental way.

Once the other child-serving systems learn about the process they are intrigued by the notion that families are better equipped to tell us what they want and need for their families. This is clearly a paradigm shift from the old way of the “professionals” telling families what to do to listening

to what families say they need. When systems participate in a team meeting they see the process at work, understand its value and see the long-term results that can be achieved when families have bought into the philosophy.

In high fidelity wraparound, integrating teams provides the best support to families. They are more inclined to achieve their goals, because they are their goals. The family support partner ensures that through each phase family voice and choice is heard and assists the family in learning to advocate for their own needs.

Facilitator coaches are also seeing positive changes in the relationships between families and staff. Staff better understand families and recognize the positive and small changes that occur. Both families and staff report feeling more hopeful.

A few examples of positive experiences our youth and families have had:

- The Greene family was used to being told what to do by all the systems involved in their lives. Now they have a voice at a the table. The family and youth and their family support partner participated in a meeting with providers that allowed the participants to move past prior miscommunications

and stereotyping to a candid discussion of the family’s vision and their needs and how the system could support them.

- When the Hunt Family was referred to wraparound, the mother reported that she had limited natural supports and cared for her children by herself. The wraparound team helped her reconnect with family so that when she had a personal health tragedy, her extended family came from out of town and a few neighbors and volunteers assisted the family.
- The Samuels had a frequent pattern of reaching crisis levels when they would place emergency calls. With the wraparound team working together with the mother, the number of “crisis” phone calls has dramatically reduced. Even though the youth and her mother continue to argue, they each use their team, extended family and friends to work through their feelings rather than allowing them to escalate to crisis level.

*Submitted by coaches of the Allegheny County Joint Planning Team.
All names in this article and the following are fictitious.*

Chester County: Finding Natural Supports

A critical piece of the high fidelity wraparound process is the

More County Perspectives (Continued)

involvement of natural supports. Natural supports are those people who support the family because of personal connections long after the professionals are gone from their lives.

We are working with the family of Matthew, a 19-year-old young man who is dually diagnosed with mental health/mental retardation (fairly high functioning). He refuses to go to school and his parents are physically unable to make him do anything he doesn't want to. His parents are concerned about how he will fill his day if not in school. They are concerned that he is not reliable enough for a job requiring him to be there every day. They want him to be active and productive, preferably learning a job skill.

Matthew wore a T-shirt to his first team meeting indicating that he had been a volunteer in an equestrian program. When asked about the shirt, he lit up and told the team how much he enjoyed the experience. When asked if he would like to do something like that again, he was very excited. The team started brainstorming ideas in his community and thought of several places to explore.

Our family support partner worked with the family to call several stables in the area; one was within walking distance of Matthew's home. The support partner and the family met with the stable staff, explained Matthew's situation and his ability to be a volunteer for the stable. The owner of the stable was very excited about the opportunity. Matthew and his family visited the stable and worked with the

owner to develop a plan for him to volunteer. He began the next week and was soon going every day. The same young man who could not get out of bed to go to school is now getting himself up and out of the house before his parents! It is a great example of how family and youth support partners can help families to connect with natural supports. The family really appreciated the support in finding something that would fit the true needs and strengths of their son.

Submitted by Tracy Johnson, Coach

Fayette County: Growing as a Team

The Mackenzie family was referred for high fidelity wraparound by the Intermediate Unit. Two children in the family had a significant truancy history; one of them, Emily, had been referred to a partial hospitalization program due to her academic and behavioral health issues. In addition, the family was having a difficult time coping with their parents' divorce, their mother's new marriage and their father's new role as primary caretaker of all five children. Everyone was really angry.

The Mackenzies and the wraparound team experienced a lot of changes along the way new staff, new caregivers, several moves, new schools, and a lot of people in and out of this family's life. As a new team, we were learning the process and doing our best to follow the 10 wraparound principles. We made some mistakes so we would regroup, apologize, ask for a do-over (which the family graciously agreed to) and try again.

Thank goodness for the coaching we received and the opportunity to regroup and try again. At the same time, the family was learning about the process, sharing about themselves, preparing for their first wrap meeting and helping the team engage natural supports.

After the initial plan was created, the family told us when an action step was not met, a change was needed in the plan, or a crisis stood in the way of an action step. The family needed more than one do-over. They too were learning a new way of doing things in their family.

When I called the mother some time later to ask her about the overall wraparound process, we started to reminisce about our team and her family growing together. She expressed how she learned so much from brainstorming during wrap meetings and that there was always more than one way to approach an issue. She shared her appreciation for the team's persistence and how thankful she was for having people in her life she can count on. She also shared that she has learned new ways to express her anger and frustration without lashing out.

The family has had their transition planning meeting – Fayette County's first transition meeting and a major milestone in our wraparound journey. I emailed the team celebratory congratulations and once again acknowledged that high fidelity wraparound works for families.

It is not easy learning new ways to do things. I know that the more we practice the better we will get, but I

am seeing it work first hand and it is worth it!

Submitted by Kellie Gavran, Fayette County program manager and CASSP coordinator

Montgomery County: Overall Implementation

As an early implementer county, Montgomery County currently has one coach/supervisor, three facilitators, two family support partners and two youth supports partners. We are currently serving 20 families and intend to increase to 50. Our target population is children and youth who are at-risk of admission to, or are currently in, a residential treatment facility. Our system partners include mental health providers, child welfare, juvenile probation and Magellan Behavioral Health. We have been working to prevent young people from entering residential placement or helping them return home from placement. We assist families

with putting a plan in place that is strengths based and needs-driven and supports the whole family using natural/community supports as the backbone, along with other clinical services as needed.

For many families, as well as system partners, this idea is new and a little scary. Many families are beginning to see the results of seeing their needs through a different lens and meeting them in ways other than relying solely on professional services. They are beginning to see how family voice is a powerful force. The value of natural/community supports is growing and families are seeing how extended family members, friends and the community can meet more of their needs than previously thought. At least one youth who has been going through wraparound has agreed to be a natural support for another youth in the program.

One family agreed to share their experience in high fidelity wraparound with county and community leaders in a neighboring county that is considering using this model. This youth and his mother shared how the youth support partner and the family support partner were the key to their success. They expressed feeling supported and understood in ways they had not experienced before using traditional services. The ability of the support partners to share their own stories of difficult times and resulting resilience served to buoy the hopes of this family for their own journey.

The stories of our families continue to inspire our team as we aspire to bring the very best to the families that we serve.

Submitted by Bryon Luke, Child and Family Focus program director

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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