The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ), a national association representing Governor-appointed state advisory groups on juvenile justice, has recently responded directly to the new A&E television series “Beyond Scared Straight”. The show, which began airing on January 13, 2011, highlights various inmate-run Scared Straight programs throughout the nation. A January 12th CJJ News Release urges A&E, and the producers of the show, to carefully consider the evidence that suggests that such interventions are both ineffective in preventing delinquency, and can, in fact, lead to increased offending. This is contrary to the network’s claims that Scared Straight programs have “Over the years...turned countless kids away from drugs, violence and crime, and kept them out of prison” (http://www.aetv.com/beyond-scared-straight/about/). CJJ also urged A&E to consider highlighting related research on Scared Straight, as well as proven delinquency prevention programs.

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice has also released a fact sheet entitled Scared Straight: Don’t Believe the Hype. For more information, please visit the CJJ website, http://www.juvjustice.org/.

Also of concern are the implications related to the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA). This act seeks to significantly limit youth contact with adult inmates, based on the related research that points to its ineffectiveness. The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) does not fund Scared Straight programs, and involvement with the A&E series may actually cause state and local violations of the JJDPA.

As such, Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Laurie Robinson and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Acting Administrator Jeff Slowikowski formally discouraged the use of Scared Straight programs in an op-ed piece entitled “Scary -- and ineffective: Traumatizing at-risk kids is not the way to lead them away from crime and drugs” which was published in the Baltimore Sun on January 31, 2011. In the article, Robinson and Slowikowski cite the research of the Campbell Collaboration, which in a study of nine Scared Straight programs, found that participants were 28 percent more likely to offend than non-participants. By contrast, Robinson and Slowikowski point to mentoring programs as a proven effective intervention in reducing delinquency and having a positive long-term impact on youth.
Scared Straight: Don’t Believe the Hype

First introduced in the 1970s as a “hard-hitting” way to prevent juvenile delinquency, Scared Straight programs became popular before being thoroughly evaluated. Three subsequent decades of research show that programs premised on Scared Straight approaches are ineffective, counterproductive and costly.

- **Scared Straight is not an effective crime prevention strategy.** Randomized trials in the United States, including an analysis of the original New Jersey Scared Straight program, reveal no effect on the delinquent/criminal behavior of participants who went through the program when compared with those who did not. More explicitly, a comprehensive “What Works” report to the U.S. Congress in 1997 of more than 500 crime prevention evaluations listed Scared Straight under “what does not work.”

- **Scared Straight has been shown to lead to increased offending.** Scared Straight programs not only fail to deter crime, but have been shown to result in increased juvenile offending when compared with no intervention. Research shows that Scared Straight-type interventions increase delinquent outcomes by 1% to 28%. Youth who went through such programs had higher rates of re-offending than youth who did not go through the programs.

- **Scared Straight is cost-inefficient.** Scared Straight style programs typically cost less than $100 per child. Yet, research by the Washington State Institute on Public Policy found that for every $80 spent on such programs, taxpayers and crime victims pay an additional $14,000 associated with youths’ recurring contact with the juvenile and criminal justice systems. On the plus side, family/community-connected delinquency prevention strategies have been shown to save the public between $5,000 and $78,000 per youth and avoid costs for court services, policing and care of victims.

- **Scared Straight programs may cause state and local violations of federal law and regulations.** The federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) prohibits court-involved youth from being detained, confined or otherwise having contact with adult inmates in jails and prisons. In keeping with the JJDPA, and supported by research, the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the U.S. Department of Justice does not fund Scared Straight programs, and cites such programs as potential violations of federal law.

- **Policymakers and delinquency prevention practitioners must spend limited public monies wisely.** Even when programs operate with good intentions, public officials, practitioners and providers must be diligent in their efforts to evaluate services and treatment provided to youth to ensure that public resources are used in ways that are effective; helpful not harmful; and truly lead to lasting community safety.

For more information, contact Tara Andrews, Deputy Executive Director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice at 202-467-0864, ext. 109 and andrews@juvjustice.org.

Find CJJ on the Web at: [www.juvjustice.org](http://www.juvjustice.org).

Join us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/juvjustice](http://www.facebook.com/juvjustice).

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1 “Scared Straight Programs: Jail and Detention Tours,” Anthony J. Schembri, Secretary Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, pg. 4.
4 “Scared Straight Programs: Jail and Detention Tours,” Anthony J. Schembri, Secretary Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, pg. 6.
7 “Scared Straight Programs: Jail and Detention Tours,” Anthony J. Schembri, Secretary Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, pg. 10.
**Legislative Updates**

**HB 226 would Expand the Powers and Duties of JCJC**

HB 226(172) was introduced by Rep. Phyllis Mundy (D-Luzerne) on January 25, 2011 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

HB 226(172) would require the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC) to collect, compile, analyze and publish statistical and other data and trends in the juvenile justice system and to make recommendations to judges, the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) and other entities as deemed appropriate. In addition, the JCJC would be mandated to provide information regarding evidence-based programs and other best practices that are consistent with accomplishing the purpose clause of the Juvenile Act pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S. § 6301(b) and to post this information, in addition to the data, analyses and trends, on the JCJC website.

**JCJC Graduate Education Program**

**Accepting Applications for the Class of 2014**

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission-sponsored Graduate Education program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2014 will begin classes in the fall of 2012. The deadline to apply is September 1, 2011.

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.
Coalition of Pennsylvania Crime Victim Organizations

19th Annual Crime Victims Rights Rally

Friday, April 8th 2011
11:00AM

Capitol Rotunda
Harrisburg, PA

For more information, contact:
dvandemortel@ccpa.net
717.761.5599  |  717.240.6220
Pennsylvania’s Crime Victims’ Rights Week activities will begin on Friday April 8, 2011 with the Annual Crime Victims’ Week Rally. The Coalition of Pennsylvania Crime Victims Organization (www.copcvo.org) will be hosting their annual rally at the Capital Building in Harrisburg, PA. There will be many special events across the Commonwealth to commemorate the 2011 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

A special post-rally program for youth who attend the rally is being planned by COPCVO. The event is open to juveniles on probation and staff working with them, as well as victim assistance staff who work with the probation departments. For reservations to this event contact Donna Vandemortal at dvandemortal@ccpa.net or at 717-761-5599 or 717-240-6220.

April 10, 2011, marks the beginning of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, a time to honor victims and the advocates of victims’ rights. This year’s theme—Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past—evokes victims’ past struggles and our nation’s duty to help them rebuild stronger lives. The theme pays tribute to the millions of crime victims over the decades who have summoned the strength to rebuild their shattered lives, families and communities, one step at a time.

For victims, reshaping the future means confronting many challenges. After a crime, victims need to know what rights and resources they can count on. They may need funds to bury a loved one or pay medical bills. They may want information on the juvenile justice process, their rights to be present or heard in court, and to be notified about court proceedings and offenders’ whereabouts.

For victim advocates, reshaping the future—particularly in these financially stressed times—means finding ways to do more with less. It means locating resources for victims who want them and helping new victims—such as many youth who are vulnerable to cyber crimes such as on-line bullying and individuals facing the theft of their identity.

Honoring the past means recalling a time, not too many years ago, when victims had no voice in the juvenile justice system — when murder victims’ families were excluded from courtrooms and assault victims paid all their own medical bills.

“Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past captures the spirit and mission of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week,” said Joye E. Frost, acting director of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. “The past that we honor points to a future when all victims are respected, the laws to protect them are enforced, and the resources they need are in place and accessible to them. Justice demands no less.”

A comprehensive resource guide, which can assist you in your efforts to develop activities around the theme, “Justice for Victims, Justice for All”, can be obtained at the Office for Victims of Crime at www.crimevictims.gov.

Members of our communities are encouraged to promote and/or join in the week’s activities and get involved in helping victims of crime. For additional information about National Crime Victims’ Rights Week and ideas on how to serve victims in your community, please contact your local Victims’ Services Organization.
The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission is pleased to announce the 2011 JCJC Awards Program which will include eight categories listed and described below. Nomination packets for these categories will be forwarded to all Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges and Chief Juvenile Probation Officers on March 28, 2011.

**RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM OF THE YEAR**
- honors any public or private sector program serving alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth in a residential setting.

**COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAM OF THE YEAR**
- honors any public or private sector program which provides community-based non-residential services to alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth.

**JCJC MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD**
- honors a volunteer who works with alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth.

**JCJC VICTIM ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD**
- honors an individual who works on behalf of crime victims as a victim advocate in county government or in a community-based agency.

**JUVENILE COURT SUPPORT SERVICE AWARD**
- honors an individual who provides secretarial support services to the juvenile court. This includes receptionists, secretaries, clerk/typist, office managers and others functioning in a similar capacity.

**JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER**

**JUVENILE PROBATION SUPERVISOR**

**CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER**
Chief Juvenile Probation Officers may nominate programs or employees for all of the above award categories. However, individuals must be nominated from the county in which they are employed, and all nominations must be submitted by county juvenile probation departments. Providers may contact chief juvenile probation officers in an effort to have a program nominated in the Program of the Year categories. Nominations must be postmarked by April 29, 2011.

Additionally, the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission will sponsor a Youth Awards Program to honor the youth selected as winners in the Poster, Creative Written Expression and Outstanding Achievement Contests. Nomination packets for these categories will be mailed on March 4, 2011 to Juvenile Court Judges, Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and agencies currently serving delinquent youth in the juvenile justice system. The Awards Committee requests all juvenile justice professionals to present the awards theme and requirements to youth under their jurisdiction and to encourage their participation in the contest. Youth Awards materials must be postmarked by May 7, 2011.

Thank you for your interest and support of the 2011 JCJC Awards Program. Please contact Keith A. Graybill at (717) 705-9006 if you have any questions or desire additional information. Materials will be available on the “Annual Conference” section of the JCJC website beginning March 16. You will then be able to download Youth Awards Contest materials and checkout conference updates.
Staff Development Highlights:

CJT&R Staff development opportunities in April

Only a few months remain to ensure that probation staff will meet the annual training requirement and April and May still have plenty of opportunities. In fact, April is a very busy month in our spring staff development season with eight programs scheduled. There are several programs that still have limited additional space available. Three of the eight programs will be in jeopardy of being cancelled without additional support. We would draw your attention to each of these workshops and urge you or your staff to consider attending.

Among the programs with limited additional registration space available:

Nationally known trainer and consultant Michael Nerney, who has been featured on the ABC program 20/20 and other major network television specials, and is most widely known for his program The Adolescent Brain, will return to teach “Adolescents and the Cannabis Connection” on April 6-7, at the Days Inn Penn State.

A key set of skills fundamental in preparing your staff to begin to move ahead with evidence based probation practices is “Motivational Interviewing: Skills Every Officer Should Know.” This workshop will be led by Barb Ulmer, a former JPO and Family Therapist with Lancaster County who has become a skillful and highly sought after trainer, on April 7-8, also in State College.

Based on the March and June sections of “Current Trends In Adolescent Substance Abuse: Prescription Drugs, Over-the-counter and Herbal Substances” that filled to capacity in mid-January, a third expansion session of this brand new workshop, taught by Bruce Schaffer, was created on April 19-20 at the Park Inn, Mechanicsburg.

Among the workshops in jeopardy without additional registrations:

On April 19-20 at the Days Inn Penn State Dr. Joanne Jankowski will lead “Looking in the Mirror,” a workshop intended to deepen our cultural competency and capacity to intervene more effectively with a diverse probation caseload.

Dr. Charito Calvachi-Mateyko will teach another sort of cultural competency program on April 28-29 at the Park Inn Mechanicsburg entitled “Engaging Latino Families.” She is a restorative justice practitioner and circle process trainer, as well as a fervent promoter of racial justice.

We would urge you to visit the JCJC training website at www.jcjcems.state.pa.us for further details on any of these offerings or to review the entire schedule and register.

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.

Signs & Symptoms of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in the Adolescent Population
March 23, 2011

Dauphin County FGC Overview Training
May 16 & September 19, 2011

Dauphin County FGC Advanced Skills Training
May 26-27 & September 28-29, 2011
Graffiti Clean-Up In Harrisburg City

Several juvenile probationers assisted Officer Jennie Jenkins of the Harrisburg City Police Department with a graffiti clean-up during the summer. These pictures were taken on the 1300 Block of Thompson Street. The result of this community service is depicted in the photo below.
This was a summer long project for the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Office and the Harrisburg School District was extremely appreciative for all of our help.

**Lincoln**

Juvenile Probationers perform community service (mulching) at Lincoln School in Harrisburg.

**Rowland**

Juvenile probationers are mulching at Rowland School to earn community service hours.

**Hamilton**

These juvenile probationers are at Hamilton Elementary School mulching.
January 20, 2011 - OJJDP Announces FY 2011 Funding Opportunities

Gang Prevention
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has announced the following funding opportunities:
  - National Gang Center
  - Comprehensive Anti-Gang Strategies and Programs

Mentoring
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has announced the following funding opportunities:
  - Multi-State Mentoring Initiative
  - National Mentoring Programs

Research
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has announced the following funding opportunities:
  - Evaluations of Girls Delinquency Programs
  - Evaluation of Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Initiatives
  - Field Initiated Research and Evaluation Program
  - Research on Best Practices for Mentoring

Resources:
To obtain further information about the above and other current OJJDP solicitations, including eligibility criteria and application deadlines, visit ojjdp.gov/funding/FundingList.asp.

February 8, 2011 - Report Describes Trends in U.S. High School Dropout and Completion Rates

The National Center for Education Statistics has published a report that provides high school dropout and completion rates in the United States between 1972 and 2008. Data also present students’ age, sex, and race/ethnicity, and the rates of on-time graduation from high school.

Findings show that approximately 3 million 16–24 year-olds were not enrolled in high school or had not earned a high school diploma or alternative credential by October 2008.

Resources:

February 10, 2011 - U.S. Department of Labor Offers Funding For Community Projects that Help Juvenile Offenders

On February 7, 2011, the U.S. Department of Labor announced that it will provide $20 million in grants though its Civic Justice Corps program. The Department will fund up to 13 grants nationwide for projects that help juvenile offenders gain job skills and demonstrate accountability through community service projects.

Applications may be submitted online through March 15, 2011.

Resources:
Apply online at http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/GetGrantFromFedgrantsjsessionid=zMDVNS6HZWV15LCIfS7WnFXvzgpfQFy412QLiId6y11PB2TMvTy!-888343268?opportunity=SGA-DFA-PY-10-04&agencycode=DOL-ETA.


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February 23, 2011 - National Center for School Engagement Announces Training on Evaluating Truancy Programs

On April 14–15, 2011, in Denver, CO, the National Center for School Engagement will host “Evaluating Your Truancy Reduction Program.” The program is designed to help coordinators and managers of truancy reduction programs learn how to conduct a program evaluation. Such evaluations can help demonstrate a program’s successes, identify where the program needs improvement, and determine what changes should be made.

The training is aimed at coordinators and managers who have a beginning to intermediate familiarity with data collection, data use, and program evaluation. Registration is available online.

Resources:
To register, go to https://secure.onlineprocessing.biz/2/pffac/index.php?s=47.
Save the date!

90th Annual Training Institute

Community Supervision: Moving Forward with Less

May 22-25, 2011

Radisson
Valley Forge Convention Plaza
King of Prussia, PA

Sponsored by:
The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections

CONTACT: TOM COSTA
tcosta@state.pa.us
PAPPC invites you to submit topics for consideration on subjects that will help juvenile and adult criminal justice practitioners and related service providers deal more effectively with the challenges of today’s workplace. Workshops will explore winning strategies, promising practices and Evidence-Based Practice in the field of adult and juvenile, county and state probation, parole and institutional care. Systems approaches to addressing public safety, cross system networking, treatment and victim concerns will be appreciated. Topics can include the following: Institutions, Adult Probation and Parole, Juvenile Probation, Administration and Management Issues, Academic and Research, Terrorism and Critical Instance Response, Victim Advocacy and Awareness, Offender Treatment, and other relevant topics.

PROPOSAL FORM – (Please attach this form to the front of your submission. More than one proposal is acceptable.)

Person submitting Proposal:

Name: ________________________________  Company/ Agency: ________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________
City: ________________________________  State: __________________  Zip: ____________
Phone: ______________________  Fax: ________________________  Email: _____________________

Presentation Title: ________________________________ ________________________________ ___________

Presenter name(s), Title(s), Licensing (i.e., Ph.D. LSW), Organization(s): ____________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Length of Presentation (check one):  1 ½ hrs. _______  3 hrs. _______  6 hrs. ______

I have enclosed the following:
— 200 word description of topic on 8 ½” x 11” paper or electronic file attachment
— Objectives of Presentation
— An outline of the presentation
— Biographies of presenters

Presenter Agreement:
If this proposal is accepted by PAPPC, the undersigned guarantees that he/she is the sole proprietor of this material, that no proprietary rights or copyrights belonging to any other person exits. The undersigned further agrees to deliver in advance, to the Program Committee the proposed session materials and handouts. The undersigned agrees that no fees or reimbursement of expenses will be paid by PAPPC unless agreed upon otherwise.

Signature: ________________________________  Date: ______________________

Mail, Fax or Email by March 11, 2011 to:
Rick Parsons, Program Committee Co-Chair
FAX – 610-992-7778
rparsons@montcopa.org

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES AND SHARE WITH OTHERS.
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 35th 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.
Georgetown University Offers a Certificate Program to Improve Outcomes for Children and Youth Involved in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University’s Public Policy Institute has announced its 2011 Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare: Multi-System Integration Certificate Program for Public Sector Leaders. The program is designed to advance cross systems work to improve outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Participants will attend a week-long program in Washington, DC where they will be taught by expert faculty on topics including multi-system integration (information sharing and joint case assessment, planning and management), developing collaborative leadership skills, the effective use of communication strategies, reducing disproportionality in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and more. After the program, participants will develop a Capstone Project to implement systems reform in their home jurisdiction. The Certificate Program is designed for public agency leaders at the state, local, tribal and national levels within the juvenile justice, child welfare, education, behavioral health and related systems of care who are committed to cross systems efforts. In order to enhance the possibility of implementing cross systems change after returning from the program, applicants from the same jurisdiction are encouraged to apply as “mini-teams.”

Georgetown University, Washington, DC - Application Due: March 31, 2011

For more information and to apply, please visit http://cjjr.georgetown.edu and click on “Certificate Programs” or email CJJR at jjreform@georgetown.edu.