

# PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
Tom Corbett, Governor



## Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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### Judge Dwayne Woodruff

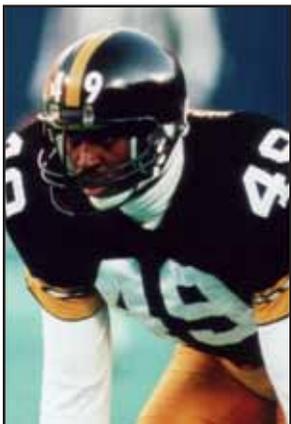
Featured As

### 2011 Youth Awards Program Speaker



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce that the 2011 Youth Awards program will feature Judge Dwayne D Woodruff as the guest speaker. The program will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at the Harrisburg Hilton, in conjunction with the 2011 Pennsylvania Conference on juvenile Justice.

In 1979, Dwayne Woodruff graduated from the University of Louisville with a degree in Business Finance and was also drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers as a defensive cornerback. He played professional football for the Steelers for twelve seasons, and was a member of Pittsburgh's Super Bowl XIV Championship team. He was selected as the Steelers' Most Valuable Player in 1982, and served as team captain during his final three seasons. He ranks fifth on the Steelers all-time list for interceptions and fourth for interceptions returned for touchdowns.



While playing for the Steelers, he attended Duquesne University School of Law full time in the evenings, earning his Juris Doctor in 1988. For two years, from 1988 to 1990, he both practiced law and played professional football. After retiring from the Steelers, he became a founding partner of the law firm of Woodruff, Flaherty & Fardo, LLC. In 2005, he was elected overwhelmingly as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County and was assigned to preside over dependency and delinquency cases in Family Court.

Judge Woodruff has been a leader on a statewide level since taking the bench. He was appointed by Governor Ed Rendell to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission in 2006 and was reappointed in 2009; appointed by the Supreme Court to the Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee in 2008 and reappointed in 2011; and was appointed by the Supreme Court to serve on the Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice in 2009.

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### Reminders:

September is  
National Suicide  
Prevention  
Month



October 2-8, 2011 - Juvenile  
Justice Week in Pennsylvania

Judge Woodruff has accomplished much in life, yet he considers the most significant of these accomplishments to be his marriage to his wife, Joy, and his three children, Jillian, a medical doctor in Washington, D.C., Jenyce, an attorney in Philadelphia, and John, who is in his second year at Duquesne University School of Law.

Judge Woodruff considers it a privilege to be a role model and to give guidance to youth, especially the young black males who appear before him in court. Judge Woodruff's many community activities are a testament to his belief that his work with youth is a calling, with responsibilities that don't end with the job. He and his wife, Joy, host an annual breakfast to recruit mentors for the Northside Urban Pathways Charter School and they also serve as the Pittsburgh Co-chairs for the National Campaign to Stop Violence's "Do the Write Thing Challenge," a unique program that gives middle school students the opportunity to communicate their thoughts about the impact of youth violence on their lives and to make personal commitments to reduce violence.

Please join us in Harrisburg on November 2nd to hear the important message that Judge Dwayne Woodruff has for each of us.

## ***Standardized Probation Case Plan Trial Initiates***

On June 30, 2011, representatives from seventeen counties were introduced to the standardized case plan designed for use in conjunction with the Youth Level of Service (YLS) risk-need assessment instrument. Over the past year, the Standardized Case Plan Committee, a sub-group of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers' Assessment/Case Plan Committee, has worked to design this document. The use of a case plan, reflective of information obtained through a risk-need assessment using the YLS, is considered essential to evidence-based probation practice.

This case plan has been designed in an effort to provide a true working and effective document for probation officers, their caseloads and families. Particular attention has been given to assuring that the key elements of Balanced and Restorative Justice are addressed, along with identified risks, needs and strengths of the youth. Youth and family involvement in the creation of the case plan is deemed critical. Eventually, case plans will serve as a source of key data in measuring system outcomes, including effectiveness of intervention strategies.

Volunteers from the participating counties, all YLS Project participants, will beta test the case plan over the next three months using actual youth and families under their supervision. At the conclusion of test period, the group will reconvene in order to provide feedback to the committee for final revisions to the format. Eventually, the case plan will be fully integrated into the PaJCMS, which currently houses the YLS assessment, report and related data collection activities. Key elements of completed YLS assessments will automatically populate the case plan format, thus simplifying the process while assuring that identified critical needs are considered within the case plan.

Eventually, statewide training will be provided to all interested county probation departments.

Should you have any questions regarding the development of the standardized case plan, feel free to contact Beth Fritz ([elizabethfritz@lehighcounty.org](mailto:elizabethfritz@lehighcounty.org)) or Rick Steele ([ricsteele@state.pa.us](mailto:ricsteele@state.pa.us)).

# Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Workgroup Holds First Meeting

The Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Workgroup held its initial meeting on June 10, 2011 at the Child Welfare Training Center in Mechanicsburg. The JJSES Workgroup is comprised of stakeholders of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system, and is designed to serve as a venue to broaden involvement in, and exchange information about, Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy and the infrastructure being developed to support its [Statement of Purpose](#).

The JJSES Workgroup is guided by the JJSES Leadership Team comprised of Elizabeth Fritz (Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of Lehigh County); Robert Stanzi-one (Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of Bucks County and President of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers); Robert Williams (Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of Berks County); Michael Pennington (Director of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency); Richard Steele (Director of Policy and Program Development of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission); and Keith Snyder (Deputy Director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and Chair of the JJSES Leadership Team).

Mark Carey, who is a nationally recognized expert on evidence-based practices and is assisting Pennsylvania in its efforts to develop a comprehensive strategy,

presented a proposed strategic framework that includes **Four Stages of JJSES Implementation**, as follows:

- Stage One: Readiness
- Stage Two: Preparation
- Stage Three: Behavior Change
- Stage Four: Refinement

Each of these stages consists of core sets of activities and skills that build upon one another and are sequential. Infrastructure is being built to support the implementation of evidence-base practices and other core values of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system such as the appropriate use of diversion, support for victims of crime, and meaningful family involvement.

The importance of developing a communications strategy was recognized by the JJSES Workgroup, which committed itself to educating practitioners about the JJSES and its infrastructure. Communication activities will include, but not be limited to, ongoing presentations and trainings, the development of a monograph and other publications, regular updates at statewide meetings and forums, and newsletter articles.

The JJSES Workgroup plans to meet on a quarterly basis to monitor and support JJSES implementation efforts with various committees meeting more frequently.



## Legislative Updates

### Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee Submits Proposed Rules for Comment

The Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee is planning to recommend to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania that the renumbering of Rule 520 to 620 and new Rules 622, 625, and 628 be adopted and prescribed. These proposed modifications and additions address *nunc pro tunc* relief.

The Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee requests that comments concerning the aforementioned proposals be submitted through counsel, Christine Riscilli, at [juvenilerules@pacourts.us](mailto:juvenilerules@pacourts.us). All comments regarding the proposed rules must be received no later than August 12, 2011.

The proposals can be found at: <http://www.pacourts.us/NR/rdonlyres/F49530B0-A75C-44B3-825B-387A899CE427/0/rules620etaljuv.pdf>

# **Northampton County Juvenile Probation Community Service Department Supports**

## David's Wish!

David Heard was diagnosed in 2008 with stage IV neuroblastoma at the age of 8 years old. After a courageous battle, David died on February 10, 2011. It was during his battle with cancer, and after seeing a Lafayette College student performance of the play "A Thousand Cranes", that David got the idea to fold paper cranes. "A Thousand Cranes" is based on the true story of a 12-year-old girl in Japan who developed leukemia after the atomic bombing of her hometown of Hiroshima during World War II. According to Japanese legend, anyone who folds 1,000 origami cranes will get one wish. Hoping to regain her health, she starts folding cranes but dies before making a full set.\*

Individuals from the Lafayette College play donated their cranes to David. David wanted to share these cranes with other sick children so he decided to donate them to the pediatric cancer ward of Lehigh Valley Hospital Center-Muhlenberg, where he received most of his treatments.

David also received treatment at four other hospitals. It was his desire to donate 1,000 cranes to the pediatric wards at each of those hospitals. David's family spread the word nationally of their desire for cranes. Their wish to obtain 4,000 more cranes blossomed and they actually received 10,000 cranes from all over the country and overseas. Initially not knowing what to do with all the extra cranes, the Heard family thought it would

be terrific if 1,000 cranes could be made for each of the pediatric cancer hospitals across the United States. There are 220 pediatric cancer hospitals, so their project meant 220,000 cranes would need to be folded and strung. To date, approximately 45 mobiles consisting of 1,000 cranes each have been completed.

The Northampton County Juvenile Probation Department has joined the quest to fulfill David's wish. In coordination with Lafayette College, juveniles from Northampton County Juvenile Probation have helped string approximately 200 strands of cranes (each strand has 50 cranes). Requests to other local

juvenile probation offices for help with this project were answered by several: Carbon, Lehigh, and Luzerne Counties.

At this time, the Northampton County Juvenile Probation Community Service Department is extending an invitation to any other Juvenile Probation Office to get involved in this terrific program. If you are interested or

have any questions, please contact: Mike Flavelle at 610 974-7576 or [mflavell@northamptoncounty.org](mailto:mflavell@northamptoncounty.org).

More information on David's story and the National Crane Project can be found at <http://theater.lafayette.edu/nationalcraneproject/>.

\*Information excerpted from Morning Call article on 12/10/10



PRESS RELEASE

## ***LANDMARK U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION PROTECTS MIRANDA RIGHTS FOR YOUTH***

To read the Opinion, click here: <http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/10pdf/09-11121.pdf>

Philadelphia, PA (June 16, 2011) – In a decision which further demonstrates the United States Supreme Court’s recognition that ‘kids are different’ under the Constitution, the Court ruled today that a child’s age must be considered by law enforcement in determining whether Miranda warnings must be given to children during police interrogations. The decision reverses the North Carolina Supreme Court’s decision in *J.D.B. v. North Carolina*.

The case involved J.D.B., a 13 year old 7th grade middle school student who was removed from his classroom by four adults, including a uniformed police officer and school resource officer, and questioned in a closed school conference room about alleged delinquent activity off school grounds. J.D.B. was not given his Miranda warnings during the interrogation, or prior to his making any statements about his conduct. J.D.B.’s attorneys moved to suppress his statements, arguing that he had been interrogated by police in a custodial setting without being afforded Miranda warnings. The North Carolina Supreme Court “declined to extend the test for custody to include consideration of the age... of an individual subjected to questioning by police.”

The United States Supreme Court, in an opinion authored by Justice Sotomayor, reversed the North Carolina Supreme Court. Rejecting the State’s argument that a child’s age has no place in the custody analysis, the Court held that “the custody analysis would be nonsensical absent some consideration of a suspect’s age.” “Seeing no reason for police officers or courts to blind themselves to that common sense reality,” the Court explained, “It is beyond dispute that children will often feel bound to submit to police questioning when an adult in the same circumstances would feel free to leave.”

The Court held that so long as a child’s age was known to the officer at the time of police questioning, or would have been objectively apparent to a reasonable officer, its inclusion in the custody analysis is consistent with the objective nature of that test.”

“Today’s decision confirms that judges, law enforcement and other policymakers cannot disregard the age of children who come into contact with the justice system. The Court has conclusively, and repeatedly held that children must be treated differently than adults,” said Marsha Levick, Deputy Director and Chief Legal Counsel, Juvenile Law Center.

Juvenile Law Center filed amicus briefs with the Court on behalf of J.D.B. Juvenile Law Center filed the first brief in support of J.D.B.’s petition for certiorari, and then wrote a brief on the merits when certiorari was granted. The briefs are cited in the Court’s opinion. To view the amicus briefs, click here: [http://www.jlc.org/litigation/j.d.b.v.state\\_of\\_north\\_carolina/](http://www.jlc.org/litigation/j.d.b.v.state_of_north_carolina/)

“The decision underscores the Court’s recognition that children are not just miniature adults. The Court rightly recognized this, relying on settled research and basic common sense,” noted Jessica Feerman, Supervising Attorney, Juvenile Law Center.

Juvenile Law Center is a national, non-profit, public interest law firm that advances and protects the rights and well-being of children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Juvenile Law Center is a resource for other legal advocacy groups across the nation and is one of a select few organizations around the world to receive the prestigious John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Creative and Effective Institutions Award. For more information visit [www.jlc.org](http://www.jlc.org) or call (215) 625-0551.

# *Regional Forums Provide Thumbs Up for Family Involvement in Juvenile Justice*

The Family Involvement Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, with funding from the [MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change Grant](#), held three Regional Forums this past spring to bring people together to discuss family involvement in juvenile justice. Special thanks to the Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and staff who hosted these events: Marietta Lamb-Mawby, Chester County; Edward Robbins, Lycoming County; and Mark Benedetto, Mercer County.

The forums brought together a total of 247 juvenile probation officials, families, family advocates, providers, and community leaders. Participants spoke about current barriers and obstacles, as well successful strategies to family involvement. Wendy Luckenbill, Co-chair of the Family Involvement Committee presented on the 2009 Monograph- [Family Involvement in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System](#). Wendy invited comments on the proposed Principles of Family Involvement, and the recommendations from the Monograph. A panel of stakeholders, including families, presented in the afternoon on their personal experiences with the topic. Their first hand observations were very moving, and their comments evoked much support and many responses from the audience. The forum leaders and host encouraged everyone to speak openly and respectfully. Individuals commented that it was helpful to have the chance to speak outside of the usual pressures of the juvenile justice process, and to gain new perspectives of each other's viewpoints.

Many effective strategies were shared, including locally grown projects that foster family involvement, such as the Family Intervention Center in Mercer County. This program brings families and their juvenile justice involved children together for a weekend camp experience, where they are supported to explore ways to build positive solutions to challenges. Multi-Systemic Therapy was also cited frequently as an effective service by family and juvenile justice participants alike. Several Chief Juvenile Probation Officers indicated that they planned to recruit local family advocates/mentors/partners and identify opportunities for families and family advocates to participate on local juvenile justice advisory boards. A

family member commented that what really helped her was when she was listened to, not just told what to do. The importance of "buy-in" by all personnel was stressed during the discussions. One chief noted that involving families cannot be viewed as someone else's or another agency's responsibility, but as "everyone's job."

Recommendations across the three forums included:

1. Family members and/or family advocates should be actively recruited and mentored to serve on local and state juvenile justice advisory boards.
2. Families should have access to family supports and services, including family peer advocates at a local level, that help them engage effectively in their child's juvenile justice experience.
3. Juvenile justice and family advocacy leadership should identify or adapt existing practice standards or credentialing processes to establish professional guidelines for family peer support/advocates.
4. The juvenile justice system, in partnership with families, should develop ways to gauge general practice and policies that support family involvement, including:
  - A satisfaction survey which measures the family involvement climate.
  - Identifying/developing appropriate data elements in the Juvenile Case Management System (JCMS) to measure the involvement of families.
5. Ensure that families have access to juvenile justice information and resource directories in multiple formats throughout their child's juvenile justice involvement.

These recommendations will inform the work of the Family Involvement Committee as it goes forward in its work with the [PA Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy Team](#).



## **Mark Your Calendar!** **Registration for The 2011 Pennsylvania Conference open in August!**

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

We invite you to join us for the 2011 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, which will be held at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers on November 2-4, 2011. The theme for this year's conference is "Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy: Achieving our Mission through Evidence-based Policy and Practice".

Registration for the 2011 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will be open in August and available through the JCJC Events Management System (JEMS) Conference Registration Website. If you have already established a "User Account" with JEMS for training purposes, you can login using your current email address and password. The system will automatically recognize you. If you are new to the JEMS system, you will be prompted to create an account by simply utilizing your email address.



## **CALL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS**



**Do you work in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System and also instruct a course at an institution of higher learning (e.g. community college, private or public college or university)?**

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) and the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJTR) are creating a directory of juvenile justice professionals who teach in higher education institutions. Please submit your information through the [Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Higher Education Instructor Directory](#) link. Should you have any questions, please contact John Cookus at [jcookus@state.pa.us](mailto:jcookus@state.pa.us).

## *Aftercare Reassessments Being Conducted*

In 2005, Pennsylvania was chosen as the first state to participate in the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Models for Change Initiative. Pennsylvania chose Aftercare as one of its targeted areas of improvement. The initial statewide assessment of county aftercare practices was completed in 2005- 2006.

The work was guided by the “Joint Policy Statement on Aftercare” that laid out the principles of a comprehensive aftercare system for committed systems and agencies to achieve this goal statewide by 2010.

Each of the counties was asked to identify key issues in their jurisdiction that posed the greatest barrier(s) to seamless reintegration. The issues identified in the initial survey in order of importance were: 1) family issues; 2) school reintegration problems; and 3) general lack of resources.

Dan Rhoads, CJJT&R Consultant, and Kelly Franklin, PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers Consultant, are currently in the process of conducting an aftercare reassessment survey to document the progress/changes in Pennsylvania’s efforts over the last five years. This follow-up survey consists of a telephone interview with the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer or designee. The information from the initial assessment and the reassessment will be analyzed and a report of the findings will be distributed.

Documenting the progress of our efforts is critical for the provision of research, training and technical assistance to support ongoing work related to the Pennsylvania Joint Position Statement on Aftercare. The reassessment is expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

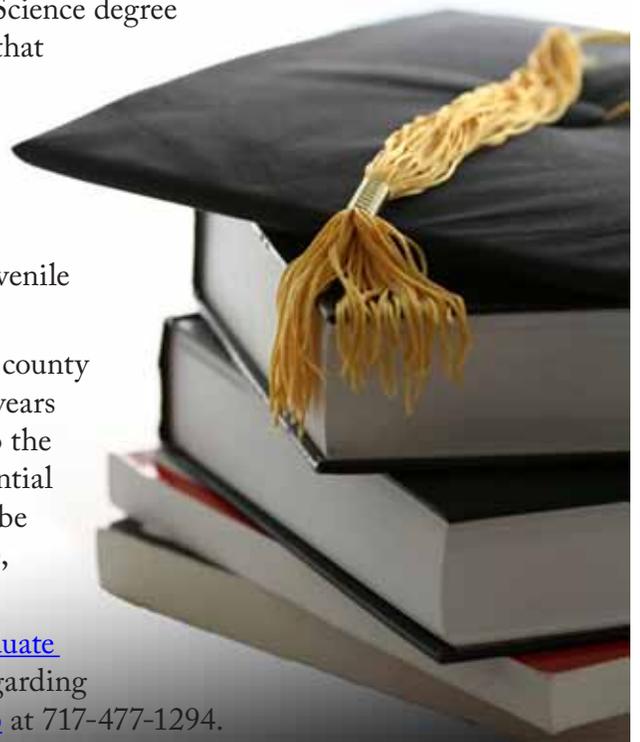
## *JCJC Graduate Education Program Accepting Applications for the Class of 2014*

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).

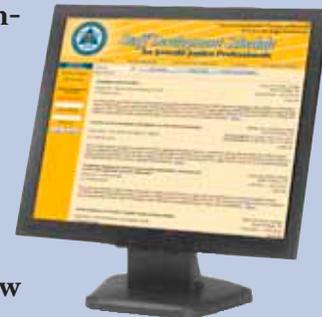
This program is available to county juvenile probation officers (and county juvenile detention staff as space allows) who will have at least two years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes. Other juvenile justice professionals – such as residential 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.

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.



## Upcoming Staff Development Opportunities:

Situated in between the two weeks of Orientation training for new officers, on **September 14-15**, **Ed Bachert** will lead the workshop “**Safety and Survival Skills for Juvenile Probation Officers**” at the Days Inn Penn State. Ed is a retired Administrative Sergeant for the Allentown Police Department who also served as a Police Academy Instructor and the Assistant Commander of the Emergency Response team Hostage Negotiations Unit. He has taught at a number of prior Center-sponsored workshops that were always highly rated in the evaluation feedback.



On **October 19**, **Lt. Col. Dave Grossman** will return to Pennsylvania to present “**How Our Kids are Learning to Kill and Learning to Like It: The Relationship Between Media Violence and Violent Crime.**” Lt. Col. Grossman’s biography is as impressive as his presentations are captivating. In the fall of 2010 he presented at Center-sponsored regional programs in the Pittsburgh and Allentown areas and wowed a combined audience of about 200 individuals. Now it is the mid-State’s turn. This one-day training will be held at the Park Inn Mechanicsburg.

As we moved toward integrating Evidence-based Probation Practice it has been recognized that a vital part of the **System Enhancement Strategy** is for all probation staff to work toward mastery of **Motivational Interviewing (MI) skills** to enhance their effectiveness in every stage of their work. It has become clear that beyond an introductory training on the principles of MI and learning a few basic techniques, a significant amount of follow-up practice, coaching and more advanced training will be required to become truly skillful. This follow-up consultation is best done in-house or regionally where smaller counties might combine their efforts to provide these skills to their staff. However, the process begins with the introductory training. That opportunity is being hosted by the Center this fall regionally, in the Pittsburgh area at two separate, back-to-back sessions that will be led by **Barb Ulmer** on **October 18-19** and **October 20-21**. The two sessions were scheduled as Allegheny Co. intends to send their entire staff to one or the other of these programs. The program will be repeated in the Allentown area on **October 27-28**. In all three instances the training is two, full 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. days.

For further details about these workshops or any of the other staff development opportunities for the remainder of 2011 please visit the JCJC website or click on this link: [JCJC Staff Development](#)

***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.*

### **[Managing & Treating Sexual Behaviors for Juveniles](#)**

August 15th 2011

### **[Dauphin County FGC Advanced Skills Training](#)**

[September 28-29, 2011](#)

### **[Signs & Symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in the Adolescent Population](#)**

August 31st 2011

### **[Mental Health Issues in Adolescence](#)**

October 21st 2011

### **[Stress In Adolescence](#)**

September 9, 2011

### **[STRESSLESS](#)**

December 2nd 2011

# Jim Sharp Accepts New Position



James Sharp accepted the position of Executive Director of the Northwestern Academy effective May 30, 2011. Mr. Sharp served as Chief Probation Officer of the Juvenile Division of the Philadelphia Family Court since 2003. In his new role at Northwestern Human Services (NHS), Mr. Sharp will oversee all operations of Northwestern Academy. The Academy offers a variety of programs serving boys and girls ages 12 to 21 who have been adjudicated either delinquent or dependent, including both open and secure residential programs.

As Chief Probation Officer of the Philadelphia Family Court, Mr. Sharp developed and implemented the Reintegration Aftercare Initiative for the city of Philadelphia, developed probation case management and supervision accountability standards and designed and implemented Juvenile Graduated Sanctions and Drug Treatment Standards. He oversaw a \$140 million staff and service provider budget and was responsible for obtaining grants from the MacArthur Foundation, PEW Charitable Trusts, and the Stoneleigh Foundation.

Mr. Sharp served as the administrative liaison to the Philadelphia Juvenile Court Judges, supervised the intake process at the Youth Study Center, developed policy, protocol and planning for the Philadelphia Juvenile Probation Department and was responsible for all juvenile probation and fiscal operations.

## The Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services

*Is pleased to announce the*

### Call for Presentations

*For the*

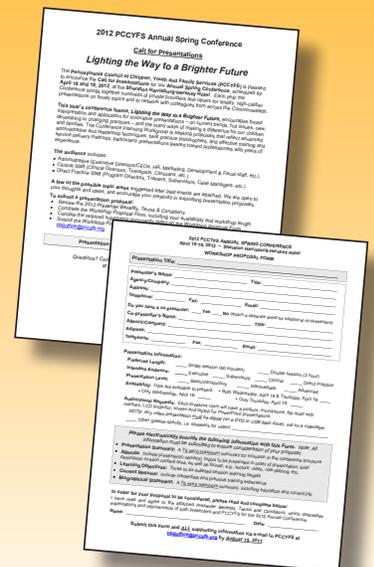
## 2012 PCCYFS Annual Spring Conference

### Lighting the Way to a Brighter Future

To be held April 18 - 19, 2012  
at the Sheraton Harrisburg – Hershey Hotel

[Click here for more details.](#)

Proposals must be received no later than August 15, 2011





# National Juvenile Justice Announcements

The following announcements are reprinted from JUVJUST, an OJJDP news service:

## OJJDP Announces FY 2011 Funding Opportunities

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has announced the following funding fiscal year (FY) 2011 funding opportunities:

[Second Chance Act Juvenile Offender Reentry Program for Planning and Demonstration Projects](#)

[Defending Childhood Task Force Technical Assistance Project](#)

Resources:

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

## OJP Launches CrimeSolutions.gov

On June 22, 2011, OJP launched the Web site, [CrimeSolutions.gov](http://CrimeSolutions.gov).

The Web site is a resource to help practitioners and policymakers understand what works in justice-related programs and practices.

It includes information on more than 150 justice-related programs and assigns ratings that indicate whether a program achieves its goals.

Office of Justice Programs Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson said, "CrimeSolutions.gov helps us take a 'smart on crime' approach that relies on data-driven, evidence-based analysis to identify and replicate justice-related programs that have shown real results in preventing and reducing crime and serving crime victims."

Resources:

Read a press release about the launch at <http://www.ojp.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2011/OJP11105.htm>.

Visit [www.crimesolutions.gov](http://www.crimesolutions.gov).



## NCJFCJ To Hold Two Courses for Juvenile Court Practitioners

On September 19–23, 2011, in Reno, NV, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges will sponsor two courses for judges, masters, hearing officers, and other juvenile court practitioners.

The first course, "[Evidence in Juvenile and Family Courts](#)," will discuss how the rules of evidence apply in dispositional hearings, how the judge can know if hearsay can be admitted as evidence, rules that apply to expert witness testimony, and more. Registration is available [online](#).

The second course, "[Core College: Role of the Juvenile Court Judge](#)," will focus on the leadership role of the judge, and how that role can be used to enhance the effectiveness of the court. It will prepare judges to make better informed decisions about the best interests of the child, family, and community. Registration is available [online](#).

Resources:

For more information about "Evidence in Juvenile and Family Courts" and to register, visit <http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1393/315/>.

For more information about "Core College: Role of the Juvenile Court Judge" and to register, visit <http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1392/605/>.

## OJJDP Publishes FY 2011 Program Plan

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published its [Final Plan for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2011](#) in the July 8, 2011, Federal Register. The Final Plan describes discretionary program activities that OJJDP intends to carry out during the current fiscal year.

The Plan's development was guided by priorities of the Department of Justice set forth by the Attorney General and took into account all of the submissions received in response to OJJDP's request for comments on its Proposed Plan, which was published in the Federal Register in January 2011.

Resources:

OJJDP's Final Plan for FY 2010 is available online at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/about/FederalRegister2011ProgramPlan.pdf>.

## OJJDP Updates Its Statistical Briefing Book

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) online [Statistical Briefing Book](#) (SBB) offers easy access to a wealth of information about juvenile crime and victimization and about youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Developed for OJJDP by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the SBB provides timely and reliable answers to questions OJJDP most frequently receives from media, policymakers, and the general public. The SBB was recently updated with the latest available data on juvenile court statistics, the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, the National Disproportionate Minority Contact Databook, child maltreatment, state and county juvenile court case counts, and more.

Explore the SBB updates [online](#).

Resources:

To view the OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book, visit [www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/](http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/).

## ***OJJDP Bulletin Summarizes Data from the Juvenile Residential Facility Census***

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published "[Juvenile Residential Facility Census, 2008: Selected Findings.](#)"



This bulletin, part of the [Juvenile Offenders and Victims National Report Series](#), summarizes 2008 data from the biannual Juvenile Residential Facility Census, which collects information about the facilities in which juvenile offenders are held—including size, structure, type, ownership, and security arrangements, as well as the number of juveniles who died in custody during the past 12 months. According to the bulletin, the number of juvenile offenders in custody dropped 12 percent from 2006 to 2008.

Resources:

"Juvenile Residential Facility Census, 2008: Selected Findings" is available at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=253761>.

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

Read other publications in the National Report Series at <http://ojjdp.gov/publications/PubResults.asp?sei=86>.

## ***Federal Report Provides Statistics on Child and Family Issues***

The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics has released "[America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well Being, 2011](#)" (NCJ 235151). The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is one of the [22 Federal agencies](#) that constitute the Forum.

Since 1997, the Forum has published this annual report, which provides detailed information on the welfare of children and families. This year's report provides detailed statistics about youth's family and social environment, economic circumstances, health care, physical environment and safety, behavior, education, and health. Findings from the 2011 report suggest that fewer 12th graders engaged in binge drinking, more 8th graders reported using drugs, and fewer teens died from injuries.

Read more findings in the full report, available [online](#).

Resources:

To read the full report, visit <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/index.asp>.

Print copies can be ordered online from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/shoppingcart/ShopCart.aspx?item=NCJ%20235151&repro=0>.

**Feeling lost, lonely, desparate?**



**When it seems like there's no hope, there is help.**

If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:

**1-800-273-(TALK) 8255**  
**With help comes hope.**



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.

Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research, Shippensburg University  
1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299.

Stephen Bishop - Editor, Chris Heberlig - Graphic Design & Layout.

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