

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Corbett, Governor



Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

Volume 19, Number 3

March 2011

ARC Hosts 16th Annual African American History Fair

On February 22, 2011, Alternative Rehabilitation Communities (ARC) hosted its Sixteenth Annual African American History Fair at the Crispus Attucks Community Center in York. Students from each of ARC's nine facilities, as well as more than 50 guest judges and over 40 guest and parents, attended this year's program.

The fair is traditionally the biggest event of the school year for ARC's students and staff, as they spend considerable time researching, learning and preparing for the program. More than 120 ARC students actively participated in this year's fair by entering projects in one of six categories: 1) Dramatic Performance, 2) Musical/Dance Performance, 3)

Visual Arts, 4) Art, 5) Research, and 6) Exhibits. Judges were chosen from among the invited guests and medals were awarded to the students whose projects



received the highest scores. Projects from the Exhibits, Art, Visual Arts, and Research categories were prominently displayed throughout the hall

for students and guests to review at their leisure. The projects displayed the students' creative abilities, while also being informative and educational, as the



INSIDE:

- *Juvenile Justice Bills Introduced*
- *New Report Describes Legislation To Remove Youth From the Adult Justice System: Pennsylvania Recognized*
- *PA Superior Court Makes Ruling in Jordan Brown Case*
- *OJJDP Fact Sheet Describes Factors That Lead Serious Juvenile Offenders To Reduce Offending*
- *Family Involvement Committee to Host Forums*
- *2010 Statewide Community Service/Restitution Program Activity Statistics Released*
- *2011 JCJC Awards Program*
- *Staff Development Highlights*
- *JCJC Launches Juvenile Delinquency Data Analysis Tool*
- *DMC Youth & Law Enforcement Forum*
- *National Juvenile Justice Announcements*
- *National Crime Victims Rights Week Resource Guide*
- *Southeastern Forum on Restorative Community Justice to be held in Montgomery County*
- *Save the Date -2011 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice*
- *Living What You Do Every Day*
- *YLS Phase III Training Scheduled*

Reminders:

- [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#)
- [Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#)
- [Youth Service Days](#)
- [Crime Victims Week](#)

African American History Fair (Continued)

projects highlighted both pioneers and current African American leaders in various disciplines – from science to politics to education to athletics.

The day started with a Welcome from ARC's CEO, Daniel Elby. Mr. Elby explained the significance of the annual event to his students, not only in recognition of Black History Month, but also in developing critical competencies. "Participation in this event helps increase their [the students] self-esteem and helps them realize that they can learn and achieve, despite prior experiences".

After musical selections by ARC's student gospel chorus, the competition in the Dramatic Performance and Musical/Dance Performance categories began. In total, there were more than twenty dramatic performances (skits, monologues and poems) and several musical performances presented for the audiences' entertainment. The students showed incredible courage and talent as they performed on stage in front of a packed house. Following lunch, which featured many traditional African American dishes, the students participated in African American History Jeopardy, as well as several other educational activities in smaller break-out groups.



JUVENILE JUSTICE BILLS INTRODUCED

[SB 815\(833\)](#) was introduced by Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne) on March 11, 2011 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill provides that counsel must be provided for a child who appears at a Juvenile Act hearing without counsel and that counsel for the child cannot be waived.

[SB 816\(834\)](#) was introduced by Senator Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne) on March 11, 2011 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill expands the duties of the Office of Victim Advocate to provide that the Victim Advocate has the duty to represent and advocate for the interests of crime victims generally, including the victims of juvenile crime.

[SB 817\(835\)](#) was introduced by Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne) on March 11, 2011 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill amends the Juvenile Act to require that restraints be removed from juveniles prior to the commencement of a court proceeding unless the court specifically determines that they are necessary and that there are no less restrictive alternatives that will prevent harm to the juvenile or other persons.

[SB 818\(836\)](#) was introduced by Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne) on March 11, 2011 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill amends the Juvenile Act to require the court, prior to entering a juvenile delinquency disposition, to state the reasons for its disposition on the record in open court, together with the goals, terms and conditions of that disposition.

[SB 850\(868\)](#) was introduced by Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R- Bucks/Montgomery) on March 16, 2011 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill provides for the offense of cyberbullying and sexting by minors, expands the expungement procedures for juvenile records and summary offenses, amends the procedures for the inspection of court files and records for a child charged with a summary offense when the proceedings are before a judge of the minor judiciary, amends the purpose clause of the Juvenile Act, and provides for a rebuttable presumption that children involved in Juvenile Act proceedings are indigent.

New Report Describes Legislation To Remove Youth From the Adult Justice System: Pennsylvania Recognized

On March 16, 2011, the Campaign for Youth Justice released a report, "[State Trends: Legislative Changes from 2005 to 2010 Removing Youth from the Adult Criminal Justice System.](#)" The report explains the dangers of placing youth in the adult justice system and describes 27 pieces of legislation enacted in 15 states in the past 5 years to keep youth out of adult courts, jails, and prisons.

Of particular note, Pennsylvania was recognized in this publication for recent legislation that allows youth in the adult system to be housed in juvenile facilities (p. 26). Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1169, signed into law on October 27, 2010, allows for a "direct file" juvenile who is subject to criminal proceedings by reason of being charged with a crime that is excluded from the definition of delinquent act, who has not been released on bail, and who may seek or is seeking transfer to juvenile proceedings to be detained in a secure juvenile detention center rather than the county jail.

The full report is available [online](#).

Read a USA Today article about the report:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-03-12-juvenileWEB1_ST_N.htm.





Superior Court Rulings

PA Superior Court Makes Ruling in Jordan Brown Case

On March 11, 2011, The Superior Court of Pennsylvania entered a finding and submitted opinions in the case of *Commonwealth v. Jordan Brown*. In a 2-1 decision, the judicial panel vacated a Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas court order denying a motion for decertification to juvenile court. The Superior Court found that the trial court’s application of a provision of the decertification statutes, 42 Pa.C.S.A. §6322 and §6355(a)(4)(iii), infringed upon Jordan Brown’s Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination. The case has been remanded to the Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas for a new decertification hearing, to be conducted consistent with the Superior Court’s findings.

On February 20, 2009, Jordan brown, then 11 years of age, allegedly murdered his father’s fiancé and unborn child with a single gunshot wound. The Commonwealth charged Jordan with 2 counts of homicide, which is excluded from the definition of delinquent acts (42 Pa.C.S.A. §6302). Jordan Brown has pled not guilty to these charges.

On March 29, 2010, the Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas denied Jordan Brown’s petition for decertification to juvenile court on the basis that he was not amenable to treatment within the juvenile system and could not be rehabilitated by the age of 21. Specifically, the trial court referenced the testimony of an expert psychiatrist who, based on an evaluation of Jordan Brown, found him to not be amenable to treatment because Jordan did not accept responsibility for his actions, which would make the prospects of rehabilitation unlikely.

In the Superior Court’s majority opinion it was found that “the trial court applied 42 Pa.C.S.A. §6355(a)(4)(iii)(G) in a manner that required Appellant to admit his guilt or accept responsibility to demonstrate that he was amenable to treatment and capable of rehabilitation”. This standard subsequently violated Jordan Brown’s Fifth Amendment rights because “the trial court placed Appellant in a situation that needlessly encouraged Appellant to sacrifice his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination”.

The full Superior Court opinion in the case of [Commonwealth v. Jordan Brown](#) can be downloaded from the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania website.

OJJDP Fact Sheet Describes Factors That Lead Serious Juvenile Offenders To Reduce Offending

The Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has published “[Highlights From Pathways to Desistance: A Longitudinal Study of Serious Adolescent Offenders](#).” This fact sheet presents findings from a project that followed 1,354 serious juvenile offenders for 7 years after they had been adjudicated or convicted and examined the factors that caused these young offenders to continue, reduce, or stop offending. The major findings of this study (below) challenge some conventional wisdom regarding the juvenile justice system’s higher risk offenders, and provide empirical evidence for potential policy change in working with these youth.



- Most youth who commit felonies greatly reduce their offending over time regardless of the intervention.
- Longer stays in juvenile institutions do not reduce recidivism.
- In the period after incarceration, community-based supervision is effective for youth who have committed serious offenses.
- Substance abuse treatment reduces both substance use and criminal offending for a limited time.

Family Involvement Committee to Host Forums

The PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers' Family Involvement Committee is hosting a series of forums to discuss strategies to more effectively involve families in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System. The forums are designed to build upon the discussion and share ideas initiated by the monograph, "*Family Involvement in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System*".

The forums are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

- April 7, 2011 at the Inn at Chester Springs, 815 North Pottstown Pike, Exton, PA 19341
- April 27, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 90 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
- May 12, 2011 at the Radisson Hotel Sharon, 3377 New Castle Road, West Middlesex, PA 16159

For additional information please go to: www.pachiefprobationofficers.org, under the Calendar section. To register you may contact Alan Tezak at alantezak@comcast.net or (717) 364-0820.

2010 Statewide Community Service/Restitution Program Activity Statistics Released

Aggregate community service and restitution program data is compiled each year from the information submitted to the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research. The information is gathered for purposes related to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored insurance program, and also serves to provide a useful picture of the community service and financial restitution program activities statewide.

During 2010, there were a total of 18,532 youth assigned unpaid community service in the sixty-eight active programs throughout the Commonwealth. Over the past ten years the numbers of participants have varied between a high of 21,615 in 2006 and a low of 17,857 in 2000. Last year, a total of 602,255 community service hours were worked by youth throughout the Commonwealth. At the current minimum wage, this represents over \$4.4 million in volunteer effort invested in nonprofit organizations and agencies across Pennsylvania in 2010.

There were 14 programs with more than 300 community service assignments/participants last year

including: Delaware 1,779 (+3.6%); Allegheny (Cornell-Abraxas Workbridge) 1,545(+6.6%); Philadelphia 1,506 (-20.9%); Berks 1,327 (-9.4%); Lehigh 1,043 (-2.2%); Montgomery 953 (-23.8%); Dauphin 814 (+8.0%); York 696 (+6.6%); Bucks 651 (-0.1%); Erie 645 (+200%); Lycoming 499 (-12.0%); Lancaster 476 (-13.3%); Chester 454 (+3.9%); and Beaver 304 (0.03%). The percentage figures listed above in parentheses indicate the increase, or decrease, from the number of participants in 2009 in each county.

Approximately 72.4% of the total youth assigned were male. The average age of participants in the majority of the programs was between 15 years 0 months and 17 years 0 months of age. The gender and age composition of program participants has remained relatively constant. The length of time necessary to complete community service assignments appeared similar to prior years, in that there are significant variations between programs, ranging from 7 days in some of the counties' programs, to highs of 180 to 200, and even longer periods in a few counties.

A noteworthy but largely inexplicable trend is that the total number of hours completed decreased in the last year by a significant 190,446 (-24%), while the total number of youth decreased by only 3.3%. For some reason the length of community service assignments seems to have been reduced and there is a higher proportion of unsuccessful terminations (9.7% 2010 vs. 9.0% in 2009).

There were a total of 1,490 youth involved in one of the 37 active financial restitution programs in the state. This is an increase of 2 programs from the 35 that existed last year and the 30 that have been in existence since 2005. However, nine of these programs are very small handling fewer than 10 participants in 2010. The largest of the programs operating in 2010 were: Allegheny (Cornell-Abraxas Workbridge) with 208 participants; Philadelphia 147; Berks County 146; York 129; Lehigh 89; Erie 83; Blair 71; Mercer 67; Clearfield 52; Beaver 43; Lawrence 41; Chester 32; Cumberland 31; Venango 31; Jefferson 30; Lycoming 29; Northampton 28; Butler 27; Tioga 26; and Clarion with 21 youth.

2011 JCJC AWARDS PROGRAM

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 have been forwarded to all Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges and Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

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 were 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 are available on the "Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice" section of the [JCJC website](#). You are able to download Youth Awards Contest materials and review conference updates.

Staff Development Highlights:

We would like to draw your attention to three upcoming workshops that we urge you to consider attending or encouraging your staff to attend. Additional space remains in each of these fine training opportunities.

Dr. Charito Calvachi-Mateyko will teach a specialized 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. She currently serves on the boards of the Human Relations Commission of Lancaster, the YMCA and LAVORP.

We urge Chiefs and Supervisors to encourage your department’s support staff to attend **“Office Safety for Our System’s Support Staff”** in Breinigsville on **May 3.**

This one-day workshop roughly coinciding with Administrative Professional’s Week is an opportunity to make the staff who are on the front line in your office setting more safe. This is an adapted version of the Phase I Staff Safety program, modified expressly for our system’s support staff. This is the topic chosen for their once-a-year training opportunity.

Finally, on **May 18-19** in State College the Center is hosting a unique training opportunity entitled **“Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth and what Juvenile Officers Need to Know.”** This workshop will be presented by a team of four co-presenters, including a NY Family Court Judge, who will have the goal of making participants more sensitive to the issues of 13% of our juvenile probation clients....young people who find themselves to be silent sufferers. These youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide requiring medical attention, three times as likely to report carrying a weapon to school, and twice as likely to have been removed from their homes for abuse and to have lived in a group or foster home. As professionals, through this education we can have a huge impact in the lives of these youth.

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.

Dauphin County FGC Overview Training

May 16 & September 19, 2011

Dauphin County FGC Advanced Skills Training

September 28-29, 2011

JCJC Launches Juvenile Delinquency Data Analysis Tool

[The Pennsylvania Juvenile Delinquency Data Analysis Tool \(JDDAT\)](#) is now available. The JDDAT application was developed to facilitate independent analysis of annual dispositions reported to the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC) by counties throughout the Commonwealth. This application will allow users to perform unique analyses on the age, gender, and race of juvenile offenders as well as the alleged and substantiated offense, legal representation, the use of detention, adjudication, case disposition, and placement type.

The JDDAT was developed for the JCJC by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, with funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice and it is maintained by the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission’s Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research.



SAVE THE DATE

5th Annual

DMC Youth & Law Enforcement Forum

When: Friday, May 13, 2011

Where: Millersville University – Downtown Campus

42 North Prince Street

Lancaster, Pa

Time: 8:30am-2:00pm

RSVP By April 29, 2011 to Kyonna Bowman, (717) 394-6604, ext.120

Sponsored By:

**Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD)
Office of Juvenile Probation , and Crispus Attucks**

Community Partners





National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

March 2, 2011 - NCSE Offers Online Course on Preventing Truancy and Dropout

The National Center for School Engagement is offering a new online course called "[Truancy and Dropout: Mending Cracks in the Graduation Pipeline](#)." The course helps schools and communities prevent students from becoming truant or dropping out. It discusses best practices schools can use to increase attendance and help students graduate, as well as tips for researching state laws and guidelines and for conducting an evaluation.



Registration is available [online](#).

Resources:

For more information, go to www.schoolengagement.org/truancy-prevention-registry/admin/Resources/Resources/TruancyandDropoutMendingtheCracksintheGraduationPipeline.pdf.

To register, visit www.partnershipuniversity.org/.

March 8, 2011 - Attorney General Holder Calls for Improvements to Juvenile Justice System

In [remarks](#) to the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference on March 7, 2011, Attorney General Eric Holder discussed his vision for the future of the juvenile justice system. Holder emphasized the Department's priority on improving the effectiveness of the country's juvenile justice system, calling for an approach that combines evidence-based research and comprehensive community partnerships.



He remarked, "I believe that the best—and most targeted—solutions won't be imposed from on high. And they won't be born of a single county-level effort. They will be shared solutions, created together—after rigorous scientific evaluation and innovative resource leveraging."

Resources:

Read the full speech at <http://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/ag/speeches/2011/ag-speech-110307.html>.

New Online Quarterly Provides Information To Assist Multi-System Youth

[Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps](#) and Georgetown University's [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#) have announced the launch of a new electronic periodical, *The Connector: Working Together for Multi-System Youth*. The Connector will provide information to assist

multi-system youth—those who have a wide range of needs in many different systems, such as child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, and education. Quarterly issues will provide the latest information on initiatives, research, model programs, and policy.

The Connector is free and available [online](#).

Resources:

Download the first issue of *The Connector* at <http://www.rfkchildren.org/images/stories/the%20connector%20winter%202011.pdf>.

March 23, 2011 - New Project Helps States Improve Outcomes For Juvenile Offenders

Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform has launched the [Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project](#), which works to help states improve outcomes for juvenile offenders by translating the latest research into practice and policy. Funded in part by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the project uses information from a meta-analysis of effective juvenile justice programs and from OJJDP's Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders to provide suggestions for improving juvenile justice practice.

States can apply to receive training and technical assistance to implement this approach. [Applications](#) must be submitted to Georgetown University by April 14, 2011.

Resources:

For more information about the Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project, visit <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/jjsip/jjsip.html>.

To apply for the training program, visit <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/jjsip/applicationprocess.html>.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OJJDP Announces FY 2011 Funding for Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Initiative and Funding for Research

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has announced the following funding opportunity:

[Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Initiative](#)

[Child Protection Research Program](#)

[Gang Field Initiated Research and Evaluation Programs](#)

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>.



RESHAPING
THE FUTURE



HONORING
THE PAST

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

APRIL 10-16, 2011

The **2011 NCVRW Online Resource Guide** contains everything you need to host and promote National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) in your community in a new, more user-friendly package. This year's theme—Reshaping the Future • Honoring the Past—reflects on victims, their families, and the professionals who serve them. With the 2011 NCVRW Online Resource Guide you can—

- Download helpful hints on how to **maximize communication and awareness** and review suggestions for **working with the media**.
- Promote your event with **public awareness posters** and **other campaign materials**.
- Place **Web ads** on your Web site or view the **2011 theme DVD**.
- View **Spanish language sections** of the NCVRW Online Resource Guide.

Join OVC in our mission to help communities and victim assistance providers promote awareness of crime victim issues. Download the **complete guide** now or **choose a specific section**.

www.ovc.gov/ncvrw

Putting Victims First

OVC shares your mission and has a wide range of resources to help you accomplish it. Visit the **National Criminal Justice Reference Service** (NCJRS) online at www.ncjrs.gov to register for services or to find out more.

If you no longer want to receive periodic e-mail notifications from NCJRS or any of its sponsoring agencies, please go to <https://puborder.ncjrs.gov/secure/register/optout.asp> and follow the instructions.

[OVC Home](#) | [OJP Home](#) | [DOJ Home](#) | [Ask OVC](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [FOIA](#) | [Site Map](#)

The Office for Victims of Crime is a component of the **Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice**.



Innovation • Partnerships
Safer Neighborhoods



Southeastern Forum on Restorative Community Justice to be held in Montgomery County

The Court and Community Collaboration Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers is sponsoring the final regional forum on Wednesday May 4, 2011. It will be held at the Montgomery County Community College. The forum, "Building Bridges: Community Restorative Justice Forum," is based on the *Building Bridges* monograph which was developed by the Court and Community Collaboration Committee.

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and Chair of the Court and Community Collaboration Committee, Addie Beighley, says that the forum's goals include assisting jurisdictions in their efforts to engage both community members and organizations. The forum will also help communities gain an understanding of the Balanced and Restorative Justice model and to share various means by which they can take an active role in juvenile crime prevention and early interventions.

The forum will be conducted in an informal, retreat-like atmosphere to enable participants to become actively involved in exchanging information and ideas. The focus will be on services, programs and policies that encourage involvement of community members and organizations in participating in the implementation or enhancement of restorative community practices.

All counties in the Southeastern Region are invited to participate and to send a team of people representing multiple sectors of the community. Chief Juvenile Probation Officers are asked to consider bringing business representatives, schools, social services, civic organizations, victim services, and faith communities, in addition to the traditional professionals from the juvenile court. The agenda was developed to enable participants to learn from each other, with a particular emphasis on the engagement of the community in responding to delinquent behavior.

There is no cost to attend this forum, as costs are covered through the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

For additional information on the regional forums, you may contact Susan Blackburn at 717-477-1411 or sblackburn@state.pa.us or Monica Iskric at 717-477-1709 or miskri@ship.edu. You can register via the JCJC Events Management System, <http://www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us/tps/defaultpts.aspx>.

SAVE THE DATE



The 2011 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 2-4, 2011

at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers



Registration open in August: **www.jcjc.state.pa.us**

Living What You Do Every Day

by Yolanda O'Bannon

I believe in being what I am instead of what sounds good to the rest of the world.

Last year, I left a job I hated as a programmer for a job I love as an executive assistant, which is just a fancy word for secretary. I still feel a little embarrassed when people ask me about my new job. Not because of what I do, but because of what some people, including myself, have thought of secretaries.

I had always thought that secretaries were nice and maybe competent, but not smart or strong or original. I have a master's degree in English literature, have interviewed the Dalai Lama, and co-founded a nonprofit organization. People who know me wondered why I would go for what seemed to be such a dull and low status job. Even my new boss asked if I would be bored.

Why would I want to be a secretary? Because it fits me like a glove. I get to do what I love best all day, which is organize things. I like the challenge of holding the focus on the top priorities in my boss' wildly busy schedule. I can function with a high degree of chaos. Untangling finances feels like playing detective to me. I find filing restful.

The only hard part is dealing with my own and other people's stereotypes, and learning to focus on internal rewards rather than humble appearances. I admit that I feel vaguely embarrassed bringing the faculty lunch or serving coffee to my boss' visitors. But deep down I don't believe that serving food is humiliating. Really, I think of it as a practice in humility. My husband is Tibetan. In Tibetan communities, you serve each other tea as a form of respect. When I'm serving coffee at work, I imagine that I'm serving a monk.

Whenever I get down or defensive about being a secretary, I think of those sharp, fast-talking assistants on *The West Wing*, and how they speak in paragraphs and remember everything, and I feel pretty cool. Sometimes I just look around at my fellow secretaries — savvy and articulate women who are masters at multi-tasking. I know I'm in good company.

I've done a lot of solo travel in my life — in New Zealand, Japan, Africa and India. Taking this job was harder than any of that. When I said I was going to spend a year in northern India, I'd get points. When I said I was going to be a secretary, people wondered what happened to me.

It would be easier if I were someone whose skills were more respected and better compensated — a doctor, an architect, a scientist. I would feel cool when I meet someone at a party. But a friend reminded me that you only have to talk about what you do for five minutes at parties, but you have to live what you do every day of your life, so better to do what you love and forget about how it looks. And this, I believe.



Lobsang Wangdu

Yolanda O'Bannon is executive assistant to biochemist and former National Academy of Sciences President Bruce Alberts. O'Bannon was born in Phoenix and raised on Air Force bases around the world. She lives with her husband in Richmond, Calif.

"Living What You Do Every Day" by Yolanda O'Bannon, copyright © 2006 by Yolanda O'Bannon, from the book *THIS I BELIEVE II: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women* edited by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman. Copyright © 2008 by This I Believe, Inc..
Reprinted by permission of Henry Holt and Company, LLC.

YLS Phase III Training Scheduled

Training events tied to the initiation of the Phase III Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS) Project have been set. The YLS is an evidence based risk assessment instrument which has been determined to be both a valid and reliable measure of the predictors of youth crime/recidivism. It is used to assist in decision making at critical points in time of the juvenile justice process and to provide a framework for the development of targeted interventions for identified risk areas. An automated version of the YLS has been incorporated into the JCMS. This has greatly assisted probation departments in their YLS implementation efforts and provides a valuable vehicle for the collection of data for future assessment, outcome measures and research.

An **Orientation to the YLS** will be held on **Tuesday, May 24, 2011** from 1:00PM – 4:00 PM at the Child Welfare Training Center, Mechanicsburg. This session targets Phase III county Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, Deputy Chiefs and/or key supervisory staff and is designed to give an overview of the key and essential components of a county's participation in the project.

Master Trainer Certification Training will occur on **Thursday, June 2 and Friday, June 3, 2011** from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM both days. This training will certify two county staff from each Phase III jurisdiction as Master Trainers in the use and training of the YLS assessment instrument. Following the certification process, Master Trainers will be responsible to train all probation staff in their home counties. The Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, or their designee, is also invited to observe these two days of training in order to familiarize themselves with the process and anticipated ongoing implementation activities.

Registration materials for both YLS-related training events will be forwarded to the attention of the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of each Phase III county in the near future.

There are currently forty-five counties involved in the YLS Project, including ten in Phase I (Beaver, Berks, Blair, Bucks, Cambria, Cumberland, Lehigh, Luzerne, Northampton, Philadelphia), eighteen in Phase II (Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Bradford, Centre, Columbia, Dauphin, Franklin, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Lycoming, McKean, Montgomery, Northumberland, Sullivan, Venango, Westmoreland, Lycoming) and 17, to date, signed-on for Phase III. The Phase III counties include: Butler, Chester, Clarion, Clinton, Crawford, Erie, Green, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Mifflin, Schuylkill, Snyder, Tioga, Washington, Wayne, and York.

Additional counties who are interested in participating in Phase III of the YLS Project should contact either Rick Steele (717-705-5633; ricsteele@state.pa.us) or Beth Fritz (610-782-3349; elizabethfritz@lehighcounty.org) in the near future. Any additional interested counties will be included in this portion of the project.

The YLS Project is supported through funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency by a grant administered by the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

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.

To subscribe to the JCJC newsletter, Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice, please send your request to jjcnews@ship.edu to be added to the distribution list. You will receive an e-mail alert each month when the latest edition is available.

