

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Corbett, Governor



Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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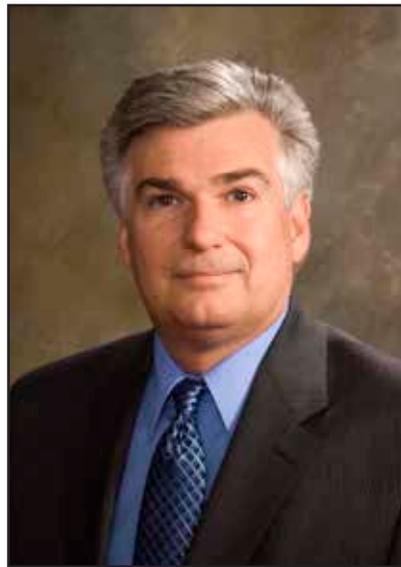
New Leadership at JCJC

Keith Snyder

Keith Snyder was appointed Executive Director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission upon the retirement of former JCJC Executive Director James Anderson on April 19, 2014. Keith began his career in 1980 as a juvenile probation officer in Dauphin County and joined the staff of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission as a Juvenile Court Consultant in 1987. Keith was promoted to the positions of Director of Policy and Program Development in 1993 and Deputy Director in 2000.

Keith has led several major statewide juvenile justice system reform initiatives in Pennsylvania over the past ten years. He served as Chair of Pennsylvania's Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Coordination Targeted Area of Improvement (TAI) in conjunction with Pennsylvania's Models for Change initiative, and received a national "Champion for Change Award" from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for his work in that area. Most recently, he served as Coordinator of Pennsylvania's comprehensive Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES).

Keith served as President of the Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections in 1996-1997, and holds both Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University.



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- [July 18-24 National Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week](#)

2014 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

Sponsored by:
The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges

November 5-7, 2014 at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

Save the Date!
November 5-7, 2014

Harrisburg Hilton and Towers, Harrisburg PA

Rick Steele

Rick Steele was appointed Deputy Director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission effective April 19, 2014. Mr. Steele has thirty-five years of experience in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. He began his career in 1979 as a juvenile probation officer for Northumberland County, eventually serving as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. Mr. Steele was active for many years with the Pa. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, serving on the Executive Committee and eventually holding the elected offices of Secretary, Vice-President and President of the Council.

In 1998, he was appointed Deputy Executive Director for Northwestern Academy and remained in that position until 2005, when he was hired by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission as an Aftercare Specialist supporting the Pennsylvania's Models for Change system reform work in conjunction with the MacArthur Foundation. In 2008, he assumed the position of Juvenile Court Consultant/Aftercare Specialist with JCJC, and was promoted to Director of Policy & Program Development in 2009.

Rick has been active with many statewide committees and initiatives. He was an initial member of the JJSES Leadership Team and is now serving as the JJSES Coordinator. Rick holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Gettysburg College and a Master's Degree in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University through the JCJC-sponsored graduate education program.



2014 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice Announces Youth Awards Speaker Jason Marque Sole

Jason Sole will be the featured speaker at the Youth Awards Program during the 2014 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, being held November 5-7, 2014, at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers.

Mr. Sole has a compelling story of a struggling young man who overcame many challenges associated with growing up in a disruptive family on the streets of Chicago, and seeking acceptance through gang involvement. Following several arrests, he decided to pursue an education and seek new friends, eventually achieving a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He has also authored a book, *From Prison to Ph.D.: A Memoir of Hope, Resilience, and Second Chances*, which provides a dramatic account of his challenging experiences as well as hope and encouragement for others who are in similar circumstances.

Mr. Sole is an assistant professor at Metropolitan State University where he teaches diversity and criminal justice courses. He has also developed several criminal justice courses on incarceration and prisoner re-entry. Mr. Sole is a national keynote speaker and gang trainer, including serving as a national trainer for One Circle Foundation. Through his consulting firm, Mr. Sole also offers tools that juvenile and criminal justice agencies can use to influence people affected by delinquency, incarceration and poverty. In addition, Mr. Sole is a 2013 Bush Fellow whose work is focusing on the reduction of recidivism among juveniles throughout his home state of Minnesota.



EPISCenter Staff Host Webinar 6 in the Series on the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)



Data Collection: Scoring Duration, Dosage and Risk Level

The EPISCenter hosted a 6th webinar on April 25, 2014 that focused on the elements of data collection. Participants learned what data is necessary to participate in the SPEP, in addition to how service amount is calculated in weeks and hours. Information was presented on how the risk level score is determined through the results of the Youth Level of Service (YLS) assessments. Webinar presenters discussed why and how to collect process data and how data can drive program or service improvement. Representatives from a juvenile probation department and two service provider agencies discussed how they gathered the data necessary for SPEP as well as what challenges they faced. To access the recorded version please click [here](#). Please check the [EPISCenter \(www.episcenter.psu.edu/juvenile\)](http://www.episcenter.psu.edu/juvenile) website for a data collection template available for download, and information on upcoming webinars.

JCJC Graduate Education Program Class of 2014

Congratulations to the Class of 2014 of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University! Commencement ceremonies were held at Shippensburg University's H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center on Friday, May 9, 2014. Prior to the commencement exercises, the JCJC graduates were recognized with a reception, hosted at the Shippensburg University Foundation Conference Center. In attendance at the reception were several members of the JCJC, the staff of the JCJC and the CJJT&R, several University administrators, faculty of the Criminal Justice Department, as well as family and friends of the graduates.



The graduates of the Class of 2014 are from top left to right: Zachary Scott-Sedley (Philadelphia County); Anthony Bowles (Lancaster County); Justin Popovich (Bradford County); Jason Akers (Chester County); John Simms (Beaver County); Erin Roberts-McComsey (Lancaster County); Kelli Davis (Lancaster County); Holly Johnston (Columbia County); Sandra Cruz (Philadelphia County); Amy Warner (Philadelphia County); and also not pictured Jesse Kerr (Mercer County).

Kelli Davis was named the Graduate Student of the Year. She will receive the Dr. Anthony F. Ceddia Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Juvenile Justice at the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice on November 6, 2014.

On behalf of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the faculty at Shippensburg University, we offer our congratulations on these students' outstanding achievements and wish them all the very best in their future endeavors.

Call for Presentations

The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 5 - November 7, 2014
Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

The sponsors of The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice are requesting presentations for workshops to be offered on Thursday, November 6, 2014. **Preferred workshop topics are those related to the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) and Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) in general.** Workshops should be designed for a **90 minute presentation**, and will be presented in a morning session, and repeated in the afternoon. Interested presenters should complete this form and return it by **Friday, June 27, 2014**. In order for your application to be considered, please submit a program description, a brief biography of the trainer and any supplementary materials.

- **Proposed title of workshop:** _____

- **Brief description of presentation:** (50 words or less) _____

- **Brief biography of the trainer(s):** (50 words or less) _____

- **Please list a reference and contact information of someone who is familiar with the trainer/presentation:**
 Name: _____
 Agency: _____
 Telephone: _____

Please Note: Two presenters from each selected workshop will be our guests during the course of the three-day conference with all registration fees waived. Presenters will be responsible for their own lodging and travel expenses.

• **This workshop is recommended for:** (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Court Judges | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Court Masters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Program Providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Prevention Specialists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specialized Probation Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Juvenile Probation Officers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Probation Supervisors | <input type="checkbox"/> Victim Services Representatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local and State Policy Officials | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (please specify) _____ | |

Name of principal contact person/trainer: _____

Agency/organization and address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email address: _____

**PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION AND ATTACH A COPY OF
THE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF THE
TRAINER AND ANY SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS
BY FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2014 TO:**

Rick Steele, Deputy Director
Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
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Harrisburg, PA 17106-2425

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Fax: 717-783-6266
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RESEARCH IN BRIEF

Part 4 in a series

Source Document: Hawkins, S. R., Graham, P. W., Williams, J., & Zahn, M. A. (2009). *Girls Study Group: Understanding and Responding to Girls' Delinquency*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

The body of scientific knowledge related to the field of juvenile justice is growing at an exponential rate. With this knowledge, new processes leading to improved outcomes are routinely generated. Clearly, the need to have access to, and understand scientific information is critical. Unfortunately, practitioners often do not have the time to sort through the literature. With this issue in mind, in 2006, *the Colorado Division of Probation Services* began to publish **Research in Briefs (RIB's)**. These documents are intended to summarize potentially helpful research related to effective practices, as well as provide ideas for practical applications of the information. More information on **RIB's** can be found here: http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB_Summary1213.pdf

Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) rests on two interlinked foundations: the best empirical research available in the field of juvenile justice and a set of core beliefs about how to integrate this research into practice. With this in mind, as an ongoing feature of *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice*, "**Research In Brief (RIBs)**" will provide summaries of published research related to various aspects of the JJSES. The **RIBs** will convey how various scientific studies support the JJSES Statement of Purpose.

Working With Protective Factors

Reprinted with Permission from: Colorado Division of Probation Services. (May, 2009).

Girls Study Group: Understanding and Responding to Girls' Delinquency.

Retrieved from: http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/File/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB_GirlsGroup-May09.pdf

In the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice system, girls comprise 25.7% of the population (*2012 Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions*, JCJC). How girls respond to stresses and negative events in their lives can have an impact on their success. This study explored how girls' risks are affected by four protective factors: the presence of a caring adult, school connectedness, school success, and religiosity. The study used data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, which was collected in three waves: waves 1 and 2 included 7th-12th graders in 1995 and 1996; wave 3 included initial respondents who were now 18-26 year olds in 2000 and 2001.

Researchers identified four risk indicators (physical assault, sexual assault, neglect, and neighborhood disadvantage), for which they initially controlled, while measuring the protective factors mentioned above. The study found "the extent to which adolescent girls believed an adult cared about them served as a protective factor against several forms of delinquency."

Although previous research has found that school connectedness to be a protective factor, the present study did not confirm this result.

The results of analysis regarding school success found it to be a significant protective factor against some delinquency for adolescents and young adults (waves 2 and 3). Religiosity was found to have no protective effect, with the exception of one specific age group of girls.

When the researchers took into account the above mentioned risk factors, they found the effect of protective factors was enhanced, mitigated, or negated by certain risk factors. The results were varied and dependent upon risk, age, protective factor, and delinquent act.

Practical Applications

- ✓ Case plans must be individualized to address each juvenile's unique strengths and risk areas.
- ✓ Treatment matching is critical to ensuring the juvenile is placed in a program that will decrease risk and enhance protective factors.

- ✓ Identify at least one pro-social support in the juvenile’s life, with whom you can establish a rapport in order to assist the juvenile in building support.
- ✓ Recognize and build on multiple strengths, understanding that factors outside of probation’s control (ie: neighborhoods) may mitigate the strength of protective factors.
- ✓ Realize that males and females may respond differently to protective factors. Identify these protective factors and encourage growth in these areas through targeted interventions.
- ✓ Females are more likely to have been abused than their male counterparts. Be aware of their additional sensitivities and needs in this area, making referrals as appropriate.
- ✓ Build social supports by utilizing mentoring programs in the community, such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Limitations of Information

The researchers noted several limitations, which is not uncommon with self-reported data. There may have been over-reporting of some events, while other events may have been under-reported. Researchers asked the respondents about past abuse or neglect; however, youth may not be able to judge these situations accurately. Also, the representative sample was composed of “average” girls, which may not accurately compare to probationers.

Summary/Conclusions

This study explored why some girls are more resilient than others in the face of adversity. Resilience was defined as “a person’s ability to positively adapt or achieve success despite having faced situations...that could lead to negative outcomes such as delinquency.” The study examined four specific protective factors and their effect on girls’ delinquency. Taking into account the pre-existing risk factors and the girls’ ages, the researchers tried to determine how much each of the protective factors could affect the risk factors. The outcomes were mixed, with some protective factors being stronger than others, depending on the risk factors and developmental age.

***Caveat:** The information presented here is intended to summarize and inform readers of research and information relevant to probation work. It can provide a framework for carrying out the business of probation as well as suggestions for practical application of the material. While it may, in some instances, lead to further exploration and result in future decisions, it is not intended to prescribe policy and is not necessarily conclusive in its findings. Some of its limitations are described above.*

JJSES Statement of Purpose

To work in partnership to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by: employing evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process; collecting and analyzing the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge, striving to continuously improve the quality of our decisions, services and programs.

Readers are encouraged to submit ideas and suggestions related to the JJSES that they would like to have addressed. Ideas and suggestions may be submitted to: Leo J. Lutz at LJLutz@ship.edu.

2014 Pennsylvania FGDM Conference

The Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) Statewide Conference was held April 22-23, 2014 at the Hershey Lodge. The theme for this year's conference was "Family Values, Value Families". In keeping with this theme, and the spirit of FGDM, the main ballroom for the conference was prominently decorated with art work from local elementary school students who were asked to display depictions of family traditions and family activities.



The conference opened on the afternoon of April 22nd with the keynote speaker, Dr. Janine D'Anniballe, Ph.D., who is the Director of Access, Emergency, and Community Services at Mental Health Partners in Boulder, Colorado. Dr. D'Anniballe's presentation, "Trauma: Explore the body's physical and emotional response to trauma and learn strategies to reduce trauma for children, families, and the professionals serving them", highlighted how effective the practice of FGDM can be in working with families and individuals with a history of trauma. Tuesday evening featured a Family Panel, facilitated by family advocate Troy Tate. Mr. Tate and the other family members spoke about the benefits of utilizing the practice of FGDM. They pointed out that the FGDM model has had a tremendous impact on them as individuals, and that their families continue to utilize it independent of any formal system intervention.

On Wednesday, Cathy Utz, Acting Deputy Secretary for the Department of Public Welfare's Office of Children, Youth and Families, and Keith Snyder, Executive Director of the JCJC, each provided remarks to the conference attendees regarding the importance of FGDM in support of system-wide initiatives, and the reduction of trauma. The conference also featured 21 workshops, presented by judges, child welfare and juvenile justice professionals, and service providers.

The conference closed with the Honorable Beverly Mackereth, Secretary, Department of Welfare, who delivered an inspirational address entitled "Putting it All Together". Secretary Mackereth provided a vision for how FGDM represents the best thinking in appropriately engaging families in a meaningful way, and also spoke about how the state intends to continue supporting this practice at the local level.

With 400 participants from across the state in attendance, Pennsylvania strongly represented a diverse contingent of professionals and community members from various counties and agencies, including children and youth, human services, private providers, local agencies, universities, judges, police, and both adult and juvenile probation.

The next Pennsylvania Conference on Family Group Decision Making will be held in the spring of 2016.

Upcoming Staff Development Opportunities:

The JCJC/CJIT&R Staff Development schedule is being updated regularly with more workshops. Please be sure that you check the listing frequently.

- **Advanced Reading Workshop**
Days Inn State College - State College, PA
Doug McGuire
6/4-5/2014
- **Children of Incarcerated Parents**
Cranberry Highlands Golf Course - Cranberry, PA
Dr. Paul Martin, D.O.
6/27/2014
- **Gangs**
Days Inn State College - State College, PA
Bruce Schaffer
6/12-13/2014

Please remember, all the details on these and other sponsored workshops may be reviewed at any time by visiting www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us for regular updates to the schedule.

Hosting a training you would like to see listed here? E-mail us the details and we'll list it in our next issue.



National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

OVC Video Series Addresses Children's Exposure to Violence

In observance of [National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#) and [National Crime Victims' Rights Week](#), the [Office for Victims of Crime](#) (OVC) has released four videos in the online series "[Through Our Eyes: Children, Violence, and Trauma](#)." The series of eight videos addresses the needs of children exposed to violence and victimization. The new videos highlight intervention in schools, innovations in juvenile justice, addressing violence in the home, and a call to action. The other four videos in the series focus on public awareness, evidence-based treatment, child advocacy strategies, and community-based approaches. Resource guides and posters are also available.



Resources:

Access additional [OVC resources](#) for responding to child and youth victimization.

Access [Office of Justice Programs](#) and [OJJDP](#) resources for responding to child and youth victimization.

Report of the Attorney General's Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence Now Available in E-Pub Format

The "[Report of the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence](#)" is now available in [EPUB](#) and [MOBI](#) formats. Commissioned as part of Attorney General Eric Holder's [Defending Childhood Initiative](#), this report details the task force's findings and provides policy recommendations to address and reduce the impact of trauma on children who witness or experience violence.



Resources:

Learn more about the Attorney General's [Defending Childhood Initiative](#).

Learn more about the differences between [EPUB](#) and [MOBI](#) digital formats on the Government Printing Office [Digital File Formats Web page](#).

View the following OJJDP publications now [available in e-book format](#).



OJJDP Announces New Funding Opportunities

OJJDP has announced the following fiscal year 2014 funding opportunities:

- [Initiative To Develop and Test Guidelines for Juvenile Drug Courts](#). This initiative will support the creation of research-informed guidelines for juvenile drug courts that will promote effective practice and quality service delivery for juveniles with substance abuse disorders that these courts serve. Applications are due by June 30, 2014.
- [Investigator-Initiated Research on Risk Assessment](#). OJJDP seeks applications for research studies on the implementation and impact of risk assessment in the juvenile justice system. Applications are due by June 30, 2014.
- [Youth With Sexual Behavior Problems Program](#). This program will fund agencies that utilize a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to providing intervention and supervision services for youth with sexual behavior problems and treatment services for their child victims and families. Applications are due by July 17, 2014.
- [National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention Expansion Project](#) funding opportunity. OJJDP will competitively select as many as five new sites to join the [National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention](#), a collaboration that supports and enhances communities' capacity to combat youth and gang violence by applying evidence-based prevention, intervention, law enforcement, and reentry strategies. Applications are due by June 23, 2014
- [Minority Youth Violence Prevention: Integrating Public Health and Community Policing Approaches](#) funding opportunity. This grant program will support interventions developed through adaptations, refinements, and modifications of promising violence prevention and crime reduction models that are tailored to at-risk minority male youth and integrate a problem-solving approach. These approaches should address public health and public safety concerns. Applications are due by June 13, 2014

Resources:

Visit OJJDP's [funding](#) page for more information about these solicitations and other current funding opportunities.

JCJC Graduate Education Program Accepting Applications for the Class of 2017

Looking to advance in Juvenile Justice?

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2017 will begin classes in the Summer of 2015. **The deadline to apply is October 1, 2014.**

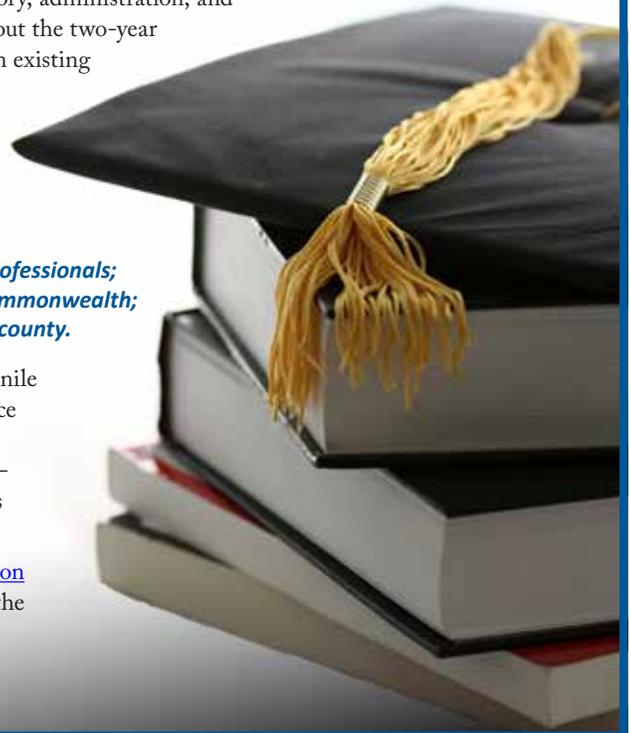
The Shippensburg University program offers students a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice. This is a 36-credit hour program that includes courses in research methods, theory, administration, and policy analysis. Also featured is a practicum study which is conducted throughout the 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.

What are the benefits of the JCJC Graduate Education Program?

- **Free tuition;**
- **Free lodging on class weekends;**
- **No weekday or evening classes;**
- **A Master's curriculum specifically tailored to working juvenile justice professionals;**
- **Networking with other juvenile justice professionals from across the Commonwealth;**
- **Opportunity to learn how to evaluate juvenile justice programs in your county.**

This program is available to county juvenile probation officers – and county juvenile detention staff – 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 as space is available.

Additional information about the program is available on the [Graduate Education](#) pages at www.jcjc.state.pa.us. If you have any questions regarding eligibility or the application process, please contact [Leo J. Lutz](#) at 717-477-1185.



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.

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

