

a newsletter of the

Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges'
Commission

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Governor's executive budget 2004-05

Governor Rendell presented his FY '04-'05 proposed budget to the General Assembly on February 3, 2004. Included in the Governor's budget is the recommended appropriations for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. The budget request contains sufficient funds to meet agency personnel and operating costs in FY '04-'05, \$2,203,000. Also, funding for the Grant-In-Aid and for Improvement of Probation Services and Specialized Probation Services, is maintained at the FY '03-'04 levels of \$5,918,000 and \$15,326,000, respectively.

The proposal does not include the continuation of the TANFBG appropriation in the JCJC FY '04-'05 Budget. However, the Department of Welfare (DPW) has implemented a claiming initiative for counties to receive reimbursement for juvenile probation administrative costs under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. If this initiative is successful it should more than offset the loss of funds from the JCJC TANFBG appropriation for most counties. Although DPW anticipates approval, this initiative has not yet received federal Department of Health and Human Services approval. Approval is anticipated in April or May, 2004.

A new aspect of the budgeting process for FY '04-'05 is the requirement for system outcome performance measures to be included in the budget submission. JCJC staff spent a great deal of time developing and submitting the new measures. Staff worked with a committee of chief and deputy chief juvenile probation officers to determine appropriate system outcome measures and the means of collection. A juvenile justice system outcome measures report and data definitions have been developed. Additional comments were received and training was provided on the outcomes measures to chief juvenile probation officers and other juvenile probation personnel on December 11, 2003. The report and definitions were mailed to all juvenile court administrative judges and chief juvenile probation officers on December 24, 2003.

A subset of the new performance measures was included in the Governor's budget. The performance measures included in the budget proposal are:

- juvenile cases closed that received probation supervision or other services;
- percent who completed supervision without a new offense; and,
- percent employed or engaged in an educational/vocational activity at case closing.

Budget questions may be directed to the JCJC consultant assigned to your county or to Tom Green at 717-705-6596 or tgreen@state.pa.us.



William Cooney receives FBI/ police commendation

William Cooney, a juvenile probation officer from the Philadelphia Family Court, recently received a commendation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Philadelphia Police Department -Major Crimes Division, for his role in the capture of a suspect wanted in a string of recent bank robberies in the Philadelphia area. Probation officer Cooney recognized his former client in bank surveillance photos distributed in the local media, and contacted the FBI.

His information led authorities to the eventual capture of the suspect and others connected in the crimes. Cooney, a seven-year veteran of the department, was presented with a commendation from the Philadelphia Family Court. Administrative Judge Myrna Field and Chief Probation Officer Jim Sharp made the presentation.

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 email or on a disk. We particularly enjoy your photographs, but we ask that these be mailed - we will be happy to return them to you.

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Please send additions or changes to the mailing list to Julie Bozich at Signal Graphics Printing, 1010 Wesley Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (SigGraph60@aol.com)

JCJC endorses Shippensburg University Class of 2006

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission would like to congratulate the following students who were endorsed to be members of the class of 2006 in the Weekend Master's Degree Program at Shippensburg University: Dennis Mills (Northampton County), Emily Oswandel (Cumberland County), Teresa Wilcox (McKean County), Dan Racht (Wyoming County), Anne Marie Cresci (Bucks County), Marc Taylor (Forest County), Michael Deal (Butler County), Tracy Fitzpatrick (Blair County), Anita Stinson (Cambria County), Molly McCarthy, Robert Bolton, and Angela Sobol (Northumberland County), Sahr Yongah (Schaffner Youth Center), Chrissie Toner (Centre County), Leigh Neubuck (Bucks County), Leo Lutz, Kristen Kane, and Scott Gardner (Lancaster County), Jen Wilt and Jason Lester (Dauphin County), James Switzer (Butler County), Lynn Becker, Carrie Million, and Angela Zera (Luzerne County), James Ketner, Charles Bauers, and Timothy Munley (Schuylkill County), Sandy Fofi and MaryAnn Ferrando (Wayne County), Heather Evans (Franklin County), and Kathleen Buckley (Office of the Victim Advocate).

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission congratulates these professionals and wishes them luck as they begin a rigorous graduate education program. Shippensburg University offers a Master of Science degree in Administration of Justice involving 36 credit hours. Classes are scheduled over two years and course work includes research, theory, policy, administration, leadership, and juvenile justice.

Highlights of Criminal Victimization Survey of 2002

The 2002 results of the National Crime Victimization Survey were released by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and Bureau of Justice Statistics in August, 2003. This survey is considered to be the most accurate indication of crime committed against those 12 years of age and older; however, the approach does not provide data on murder. The highlights contained in the report are as follows.

- Overall violent victimization and property crime rates in 2002 are the lowest recorded since the inception of the NCVS in 1973.
- In 2003 the rate for rape was 0.4 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, 60 percent less than the 1993 rate.
- For the decade, the rate for robbery was down 63 percent, falling to 2 per 1,000 in 2002.
- From 1993 to 2002, victimization by aggravated assault, associated with serious injury or weapons, declined 64 percent to 4 per 1,000. The rate of simple assault – a crime that involves neither serious injury nor weapon – fell 47 percent.
- The rate of violent crime dropped 21 percent from the period 1999-2000 to the period 2001-02.
- Reporting to the police increased from 43 percent of all violent crimes in 1993 to 49 percent in 2002; reporting of property crimes increased from 34 percent to 40 percent.
- Violent crimes against females were more likely to have been reported to the police than those against males.
- The relative increase in reporting crime to the police was greater for rape/sexual assault than it was for robbery or simple assault, 1993-2002.
- During 2002, seven percent of violent crime victims faced an offender armed with a firearm.

Those interested in more detail can visit the Office of Justice website at www.ojp.usdoj.gov and click on publications.

Position Available

The Center for Juvenile Justice
Training and Research
is seeking a candidate for
the position of
Assistant Director of Training

Interested persons should telephone
John Herb, 717-477-1185,
for instructions to apply

The application deadline is
March 26, 2004

Staff development news

Several programs in the CJJT&R Spring Training Schedule have filled and are closed to additional registrations. “The Sociological Influences on Troubled Adolescents,” in Lehigh Valley in March, is full; There are a few spaces in the April session in Mars, PA. “Drug Subculture Competency” in April is full, and “Community and Media Relations within the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System” is also filled to capacity.

The Center schedule may be reviewed at the JCJC website www.jcjc.state.pa.us Among those workshops that have additional room are:

“Domestic Violence: A Primer for Juvenile Justice Professionals” will be held April 7-8 at the Days Inn Penn State and will be led by Debbie Kline, a 16-year veteran consultant and trainer.

“The Respect Workshop” is a new seminar that will be led by Phil Washington. This regional workshop will be held April 15-16 in the Allentown area and May 12-13 in Mars, PA.

April 21-22 at the Days Inn Penn State, Karen Vadino will present “Skill Enhancement for the Health of It.” We urge system managers to encourage their department’s support staff to attend this program—held in conjunction with Administrative Professional’s week.

“Victim/Community Awareness: An Orientation for Juveniles (A workshop for Facilitators) will be held on April 28-30 in Mechanicsburg at a train-the-trainer session led by Valerie Bender.

We encourage you to consider attending the new training in State College May 12-13 titled “Community Management of Juveniles Who Have Committed Sex Offenses.” This workshop is co-sponsored by the Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) that was established in 1997 with the goal of enhancing public safety by preventing further victimization through improving the management of adult and juvenile sex offenders who are in the community. This unique session will be led by a trio of nationally recognized consultant-trainers that promises to make this workshop a high point in our spring schedule.

DPW establishes the Sexual Responsibility and Treatment Program pursuant to Act 21 of 2003

The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) has established the “Sexual Responsibility and Treatment Program” for individuals committed to involuntary treatment pursuant to Act 21 of 2003. The program will be located on the grounds of Torrance State Hospital in Westmoreland County. Program standards that address treatment programming, case management supervision and risk management, staff training and orientation, and evaluating program effectiveness were developed by an Advisory Committee.

Act 21 created a new Chapter 64 in Title 42, “Court-ordered Involuntary Treatment of Certain Sexually Violent Persons” which provides for the involuntary commitment of individuals whom a court has found to have a mental abnormality or personality disorder, which results in serious difficulty in controlling sexually violent behavior that makes the persons likely to engage in an act of sexual violence. Individuals will be committed initially to the program for a one-year period. Sixty days prior to the expiration of the one-year commitment, the Sexual Responsibility and Treatment Program will submit an evaluation and the State Sexual Offenders Assessment Board will submit an assessment of the individual to the court.

The court is then required to schedule a review hearing no later than thirty days after receipt of both the evaluation and the assessment. If the court determines by clear and convincing evidence that the person continues to have serious difficulty controlling sexually violent behavior due to a mental abnormality or personality disorder that makes the person likely to engage in an act of sexual violence, the court is required to order an additional period of involuntary treatment of one year. Otherwise, the court is required to order the discharge of the person.

Please contact Keith Snyder at 717- 787-5634, or ksnyder@state.pa.us, if you have any questions or desire additional information.

Applications for Mercyhurst College Class of 2007 now being accepted

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission is now accepting applications for the weekend masters’ degree program at Mercyhurst College, which will be held on Saturdays beginning September, 2004. Applications are limited to juvenile probation officers from Erie, Mercer, Crawford, Warren, Forest, Lawrence, and Venango counties.

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be considered for JCJC endorsement: (1) at least two years of experience in the juvenile justice field; (2) a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university; (3) a minimum of 18 undergraduate credits in the social sciences.

Mercyhurst College offers a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice involving 33 credit hours. Classes are scheduled over three years with students taking 12 credit hours their first and second year, and nine credit hours during their third year. Course work includes research, theory, policy, administration, counseling, ethics, and juvenile justice. Classes meet on five (5) weekends during the fall and spring semesters.

Tuition costs and educational fees are paid for by the JCJC for all endorsed students. Students who will be traveling from a distance greater than 100 miles will have their mileage reimbursed (after the first 100 miles to and from Mercyhurst) at a rate of .325 cents per mile. Any students traveling from a distance greater than 50 miles to Mercyhurst are eligible to have lodging reimbursed, up to \$50 per night, by the Commission. These students will be responsible for securing their own lodging.

If you would like more details or are interested in applying, please call Greg Young at 717-477-1797.

Highlights

of the 2002 Disposition Report

- The 39,333 delinquency dispositions in Pennsylvania in 2002 represent a 7.4 percent decrease from 2001 and a 1.1 percent decrease since 1998. (See page 3)
- The two largest counties in the Commonwealth, Allegheny and Philadelphia, went in opposite directions from 2001 to 2002. Allegheny County increased from 3,179 “new” dispositions in 2001 to 4,334 in 2002; while Philadelphia decreased from 10,201 “new” dispositions in 2001 to 6,642 in 2002. (See pages 3 and 6).
- Probation continues to be the most frequently utilized disposition (22.3%) followed in descending order by Consent Decree (15.1%), Informal Adjustment (13.3%), Placement (10.4%), Complaint Withdrawn (8.9%), Dismissed/Not Substantiated (7.8%), Warned/Counseled/Case Closed (5.8%), and Fines/Costs (4.2%). (See page 4)
- Public defenders handled 16,614 (65.1%) of the 25,523 delinquency proceedings in 2002. Private attorneys handled 3,815 (14.9%) of the delinquency proceedings, while court appointed attorneys handled 3,212 (12.6%). In 2002, juveniles waived their right to counsel in 7.4% (1,882) of the delinquency proceedings. (See pages 13 and 14)
- Delinquency placements in private institutions comprise 30.9 percent (1,266) of the 4,099 total delinquency placements in 2002. This is nearly double the frequency in which group homes (16%) and Wilderness-based placements (13.9%) were utilized in 2002. (See page 23)
- Juvenile court dispositions in Pennsylvania continue to primarily involve males. In 2002, males accounted for 78.4 percent of all juvenile court dispositions, 82.7 percent of probation dispositions, 88.2 percent of dispositions involving placement, and 95.9 percent of transfers to criminal court. (See page 39)
- The majority of juvenile court dispositions in 2002 continued to involve White youth (56.4%), followed by Black youth (32.3%), Hispanic youth (6.4%), and Asian youth (.6%). (See page 45)
- Of those receiving “new” dispositions, there are a substantially higher percentage of dispositions involving Black youth that are transferred to criminal court (42.6%) compared to the percentage (32.4%) processed through juvenile courts. In addition, a significantly lower percentage of Black youth received a Consent Decree (24.1%). (See page 45)

Highlights of the Juvenile Justice Enhancement Training Initiative – (Balanced and Restorative Justice)

Throughout Pennsylvania, local juvenile courts, victims' service organizations, and service providers have been working toward integrating programs and revising practices advancing us toward the achievement of a balanced and restorative juvenile justice system. This series of articles will provide monthly updates on some the projects, initiatives, and activities that are occurring among components of the larger system. A brief retrospective, as an introduction to the overall initiative, is in order.

Beginning in 1998, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO) began to integrate balanced and restorative justice implementation into its very structure. Since the inception of this model, the Council has supported a standing committee which serves as the cornerstone for the leadership of these efforts. The Balanced and Restorative Justice Committee of the PCCJPO meets quarterly to focus solely on implementation efforts. Participants serving on this committee are representative of a broad range of juvenile court personnel, victims' services, service providers, and governmental and community organizations including the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Office for Children Youth and Families, Communities That Care, and the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, among others.

The Balanced and Restorative Justice Committee is chaired by Sandra Brulo, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Luzerne County and Vice-President of the PCCJPO. The previous chair, James Rieland, Director of Court Services for Allegheny County, provided leadership to this committee before moving into the position of President of the Council. The committee provides opportunities for the participants to network, share information, and expand the knowledge base regarding balanced and restorative justice. The Balanced and Restorative Justice Committee, along with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee of PCCD, have strategically outlined the implementation efforts. Subsequently, many of the activities of these committees are performed collaboratively. The work of the Balanced and Restorative Justice Committee is funded through a grant from PCCD and support is provided through the JCJC.

Various workgroups have been developed through the Balanced and Restorative Justice Committee to focus on specific tasks: partnering with our institutions of higher learning to integrate the principles and practice of balanced and restorative justice into the criminal justice curriculums (the Higher Education Workgroup); exploring and implementing cognitive skill development and cognitive behavioral approaches (the Cognitive Probation Workgroup); the examination of the competency-development goal of our juvenile justice system (the Competency Development Workgroup) and the development of an implementation guide for juvenile justice administrators (the Administrators Guidebook Development Workgroup).

Numerous standing and ad hoc committees of the PCCJPO, many of which interact directly with the Balanced and Restorative Justice Committee, have undertaken efforts to enhance our juvenile justice system by gearing their activities toward efforts to restorative justice throughout the Commonwealth. These committees are as follows: Public Relations and Education, Court and Community Collaboration, and Victim Services.

Additionally, the Council supports a web master who provides the management for the web site of the PCCJPO's. The web site provides an on-line resource for accessing balanced and restorative justice publications, information and tools. The web site is being expanded and the web master is looking for feedback and comments. Please check us out at www.pachiefprobationofficers.org.

