

a newsletter of the

Pennsylvania  
Juvenile Court  
Judges'  
Commission

Volume 13, Number 3

# P E N N S Y L V A N I A J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Edward G. Rendell, Governor

www.jcjc.state.pa.us

March 2005

## Jim Anderson and Hunter Hurst III receive “M. James Toner Fellow Awards”



Jim Anderson, Executive Director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, **right**, and M. James Toner, retired Dean of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, are pictured at the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on Juvenile Justice in Orlando, March 22, 2005



Hunter Hurst III, Director of the National Center for Juvenile Justice, co-recipient of the first M. James Toner Award

**T**he National Juvenile Court Services Association (NJCSA) presented its inaugural *M. James Toner NJCSA Fellow Awards* to James E. Anderson and Hunter Hurst III, at the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on Juvenile Justice, co-sponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the National District Attorneys Association. The awards were presented on March 22, 2005, in Orlando, Florida.

The NJCSA, an affiliate of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, established the award to recognize individuals for a lifetime of outstanding service to the juvenile justice community. The award was created to honor M. James Toner, Dean of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, who retired in February after devoting more than 30 years of his career to improving our nation's juvenile court systems.

Jim Anderson was nominated for this award (unbeknownst to him) by Judge Carol K. McGinley, Chairman of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Anderson began his career in 1972 as a probation officer with the Elk County Probation Department. He served as Chief Probation Officer for the 59<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Elk and Cameron Counties) from 1973 until 1978, at which time he accepted the position of Juvenile Justice Planner for the Northwest  
*M. James Toner Award, continued on back page*

## 2004 statewide Community Service/Restitution Program statistics released

County efforts continued to more fully integrate practices consistent with the Balanced and Restorative Justice principles, and the number of youth participating in community service increased slightly (less than one-half of one percent) since 2003. Similarly, the number of youth participating in restitution programs remained virtually unchanged in the same one-year period. 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 gathered is necessary 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 restitution program activities statewide.

During 2004, there were a total of 20,931 youth assigned unpaid community service in the 68 active programs throughout the Commonwealth. This represents a very slight decrease from 20,607 youth participating in 2003. To gain perspective over a broader period of time, this is a 201 percent increase from the 6,943 youth participating in 1994, just ten years ago. Last year, a total of 757,693 community service hours were worked by youth throughout the State. At the current minimum wage, this represents over \$3,902,000 in volunteer effort invested in non-profit organizations and agencies across the Commonwealth in 2004. There were 12 programs handling more than 600 community

*Community Service, continued on page 4*

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.

Greg Young is the editor. Our address is CJJT&R, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299. (gyoung@state.pa.us)

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)

## Probationers take the field

In the summers of 2003 and 2004, the Susquehanna County Juvenile Probation Department oversaw community service projects that consisted of refurbishing three Little League baseball fields using grant money obtained from the federal government. The refurbishments included drainage, landscaping, resurfacing the playing fields, restoring the playground areas, resurfacing and extending the parking lot, painting dugouts, revamping concession stands (including cabinetry installation), and creating access to a field that was previously inaccessible due to poor drainage and physical obstacles, and general renovation of the aesthetics of these fields. The disbursements from the grants were spent in the local economy to purchase supplies, machines, and services.

These projects were funded by grants that originated from federal monies used in conjunction with school districts to provide community service projects in which the community benefits from the end result. The grants were obtained by the grant-writing coordinator for Montrose Area School District, Carla Winters. After the grants were obtained, the president judge, Kenneth Seamans, approved using probationers and inmates from the county jail, both juvenile and adult status, to complete the project. The projects were then coordinated and supervised by school-based juvenile probation officer, Sami Bourizk. Participating probationers and inmates were supervised by the county probation department. There were also numerous volunteers from the community who assisted and devoted their time in the efforts to improve these recreational facilities. The Montrose Area School District that processed these grants issued certificates to students, volunteers and those completing community service hours.

Thirty Little League teams use these fields. As long as this particular federal grant is obtained by the Montrose Area School District, various areas of the school district will see the benefits. The possibility of allowing probationers to maintain upkeep of various community parks, fields, and recreation areas has also been discussed. This would allow these individuals to complete community service hours as well as providing the community with a direct, visible benefit from these efforts. Articles in the local newspaper were written about these projects and how these grants have resulted in a positive outcome for the community.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual PTSD conference

by Deb Ciocco, Westmoreland County

In 1999, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJJPC) of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency identified post-traumatic stress disorder as a significant mental health problem for girls in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. To address this issue, the JJJPC established the Pennsylvania Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Project, with the following goals: to create a treatment program for girls in the juvenile justice system who have experienced post-traumatic stress disorder; to develop a statewide training program for juvenile justice professionals on understanding and assessing post-traumatic stress disorder; to develop an education program on stress and trauma for girls placed in juvenile detention centers or on probation, and an education program for girls in alternative education settings; and, to create a demonstration site for the post-traumatic stress disorder project.

Westmoreland County has been involved in the Pennsylvania PTSD Project since its inception. Juvenile Court Judge John Driscoll attended the very first conference on the PTSD Project and became an enthusiastic advocate for the program. Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Adeline Beighley, a member of the JJJPC, is on the Female Services Subcommittee that oversees the PTSD Project. School-based probation officer Deb Ciocco joined the juvenile detention work group, and Greensburg-Salem Middle School Principal Tom Marshall brought the program into his school. According to the chairperson of the JJJPC, Dr. Ronald Sharp, "Westmoreland County's response to the PTSD Project was immediate, intense and sustained. When it came time to select a demonstration site for the project, Westmoreland County, through its support of the project, was the perfect site."

Beginning in January of 2005, Westmoreland County became the demonstration site for the Pennsylvania PTSD Project. The goal of this initiative is to develop a model program for identifying, assessing, and treating stress and trauma in girls who enter the juvenile justice system. In 2005, Westmoreland County will host the First Annual Pennsylvania Conference on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Westmoreland County will also be the training and demonstration site for all work related to the education programs on stress

and trauma for girls who are placed in juvenile detention, placed on juvenile probation, or who are in alternative education programs in the public school system. A comprehensive education program on post-traumatic stress disorder in girls will become available to all human service and education programs in Westmoreland County. The county will develop policies and procedures on treating girls with stress, trauma, and PTSD treatment needs that will be made available to the other juvenile courts in Pennsylvania.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is a mental health problem that affects many girls who enter the juvenile justice system. PTSD is defined as a traumatic event in which a person has experienced, witnessed, or was confronted with, an event that involved actual or threatened death or serious injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of self or others that resulted in intense fear, helplessness, or horror. Common symptoms of PTSD are: recurrent and intrusive distressing recollections; recurrent distressing dreams of the event; acting or feeling as if the event was recurring; intense distress when exposed to cues that resemble the traumatic event; efforts to avoid thoughts, feelings, or conversations associated with the trauma; efforts to avoid activities, people, and places associated with the trauma; inability to recall important aspects of the trauma; restricted range of affect; and, a sense of a foreshortened future. Problems with sleeping, irritability, concentration, hyper-vigilance, and an exaggerated startle response are all common.

If you would like to be part of this project, please contact project leader Deb Ciocco. You can help with this work by learning more about PTSD, distributing project literature, participating in the PTSD training programs, becoming a volunteer for the project by preparing conference materials, training to work with girls who have stress, trauma, and PTSD issues, and by sharing what you learn with your friends and neighbors in Westmoreland County.

The First Annual PTSD Conference will be held at the Sheraton Inn Four Points in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, May 24-26. Telephone call Deb Ciocco, 724- 830-1815, or e-mail [dciocco@co.westmoreland.pa.us](mailto:dciocco@co.westmoreland.pa.us) for further information.

## Training and advice on the educational rights of foster children

**J**anet Stocco, Esq. recently joined the staff of the Education Law Center in Philadelphia. She is the recipient of a Skadden Fellowship, which has given her funding to spend two years focusing on the educational rights of children in foster care. Stocco is available to provide training to juvenile court judges, county children and youth agency staff, private foster-care agency workers, and others who work with Pennsylvania foster children.

Sample training topics include: (1) newly enacted State Enrollment Rules (what papers can be required and what timelines apply), (2) recent changes to Special Education Law (transfer of IEPs to new districts, evaluation procedures, discipline, etc.), (3) who can sign school forms (regular and special education) for foster children?, and, (4) what is a surrogate parent and when is one needed?

If you have a question about the education rights of a specific foster child in your care, call the ELC helpline at 215-238-6970 to speak to Ms. Stocco.

## Drug czar John Walters visits Norristown CTC

**O**n October 21, 2004, John Walters, Director of the ONDCP and national drug czar, presented two Communities That Care (CTC) sites with new Safe and Drug-Free Communities grants.

Norristown CTC and Quakertown Area CTC each received new grants of \$100,000-a-year for five years. The grants will allow these community coalitions to continue to work to reduce risk factors in their communities by focusing on proven, research-based strategies centering around a strong community coalition and science-based programming. Berks County also had their Safe and Drug-Free Communities Grant renewed.

These coalitions are effective at reducing substance abuse and other problem behaviors because they allow communities to target prevention efforts to areas that are needed within their own community.

### *Community Service, from page 2*

service participants last year including: Berks 1,512(+24.9%); Montgomery 1,494(-1.1%); Allegheny (Cornell-Abraxas Workbridge) 1,481(-9.6%); Philadelphia 1,379(+2.3%); Delaware 1,183(-9.8%); York 1,100(+34.1%); Chester 942(+76.1%); Philadelphia DA's Office 877(+10.3%); Erie 860(+18.9%); Bucks 849(-37.9%); Lancaster 728(-11.2%); and Lehigh 663(+2.8%). The percentage figures listed above in parentheses indicate the increase or decrease from the number of participants in 2003 in each county.

Approximately 75 percent of the total youth assigned were male. This is a fairly typical male/female ratio in most of the past 14 years, with last year being an aberration at 86 percent male. The average age of participants in the majority of the programs was between 14 years, 6 months and 16 years, 6 months of age. The age range composition of program participants has remained relatively constant since 1990. The length of time necessary to complete community service assignments appeared similar to prior years in that there were significant variations between programs ranging from low figures of 33, and 45 days in some of the counties' programs, to highs of 180 to 250, and even 273 in several counties. Also, the percentage of youth carried into 2004 to complete their assignment continues to be surprisingly high at 8,919, or 42.6 percent of the youth assigned community service in the year.

There were a total of 2,327 youth involved in one of the 28 active restitution programs in the state. This represents an increase of two in the number of programs that existed in 2002. However, nine of these programs served fewer than 20 youthful participants. The number of program participants decreased negligibly from the 2003 total of 2,332. The largest of these programs operating in 2004 were Philadelphia 524, Allegheny (Cornell-Abraxas Workbridge) 346, Berks County 275, Bucks 241, Erie 99, York 90, Lehigh 83, Lancaster 81, Mercer 65, Fayette 64, Clearfield 47, Northampton 39, Northumberland and Tioga at 38, Clarion 33, and Lawrence County with 31 youth.

[Click HERE to view the Call for Presentations for the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice in November](#)

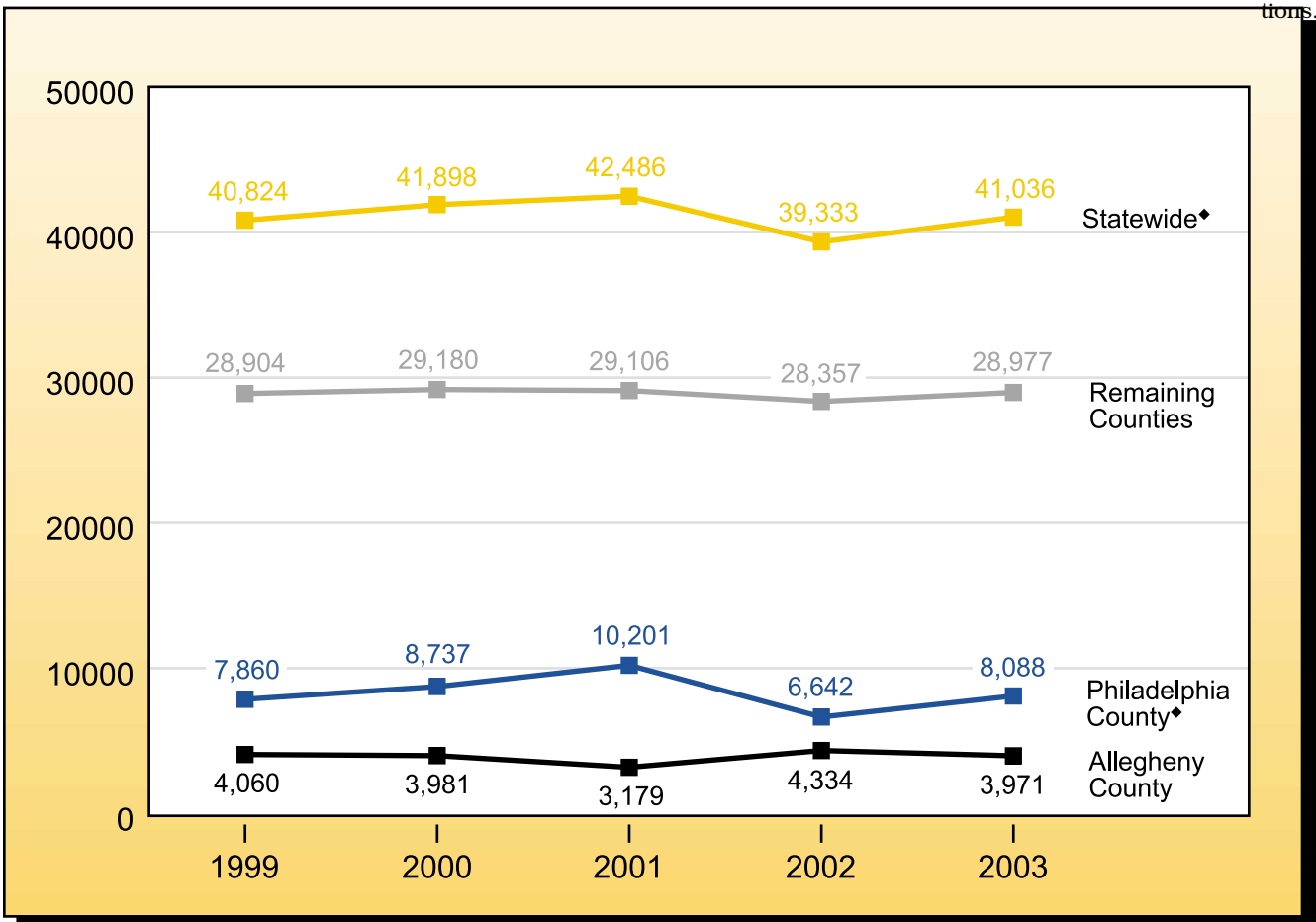
# Delinquency Dispositions, 1999 - 2003

The accompanying graph displays the number of dispositions for delinquency referrals from 1999 to 2003. Disposition and Placement reviews and dependency referrals are not included in the graph or data tables.

There was a 4.3% increase in delinquency dispositions from 2002 to 2003. Dispositions involving new referrals in Philadelphia County increased by 21.8% and Allegheny County dispositions decreased by 8.4%.

## DELINQUENCY DISPOSITIONS

\*Please refer to the note on page 2 regarding Philadelphia dispositions.



## Staff development news

There are two programs that are a part of the CJJT&R Spring Training Schedule that we encourage you or your staff to attend, as space is still available.

May 18-19, preceding the May 20 General Membership meeting of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers in State College, we are hosting the unique workshop "Program Development: Making the Most of FFT, MTFC & MST." The three models are: Functional Family Therapy (FFT); Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC); and Multisystemic Therapy (MST). Among the nationally recognized Blueprints for Violence Prevention these are three program models that are particularly well-suited to work in tandem with juvenile probation. These programs have each demonstrated through the research to produce effective treatment outcomes with juvenile offenders. This workshop offers the opportunity to increase your understanding of these programs, how to develop these services in a county setting, what obstacles need to be overcome, and how to best support and be an advocate for these programs.

This training will review specific details of each program model including: research outcomes; the program structure and typical length of treatment; the required staff qualifications and training; the necessary elements of system collaboration; typical program costs and funding alternatives; and, the outcome measures that can be reasonably anticipated.

April 28-29 at the Holiday Inn Mechanicsburg we are holding our once-a-year workshop designed expressly for our system's support staff. "Remember to Breathe: Minimize your Stress and Maximize your Effectiveness in the Workplace" will be led by Renée Verbanic, a master teacher and certified prevention specialist. Held during Administrative Professional's Week, we urge Directors to encourage their support staff to attend, to both enhance their skills and recognize their contributions. The session promises to be an engaging and entertaining session where participants will gain new perspectives, assess behaviors, and learn new skills, all in an effort to foster resiliency in the workplace and beyond.

Finally, due to a lack of sufficient registrations, we have been forced to cancel the May 10-14 "Phase II Safety Training—Control Tactics" that was slated to be held in Shippensburg.

For further details on these or other Center-sponsored training, please refer to the Spring 2005 Training brochure or visit the Commission website: [www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us) and click on training and then Spring 2005 to review the entire calendar.

### *Toner, from page one*

Regional Planning Council of the Governor's Justice Commission. He joined the staff of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission later that year, as the Commission's Legislative Consultant. He was named the Commission's Coordinator of Policy Development in 1981, promoted to Deputy Director in 1983, and accepted the position of Executive Director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission in 1986.

Early in his career, Hunter Hurst served as a probation officer in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, as well as Director of Survey and Planning Services for the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD). Hurst was appointed Director of the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) in 1973 following a nationwide search in conjunction with the Center's founding in Pittsburgh. Under his leadership, the Center has grown from a concept on paper to a major national resource for juvenile justice research, policy development, and technical assistance. Congratulations to both Hunter and Jim. Pennsylvania's national reputation as a leader in juvenile justice was confirmed again in Orlando.

