

a newsletter of the

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Juvenile Court  
Judges'  
Commission



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## **JCJC Standards Governing the Administration of Restitution Funds Published as Statement of Policy**

### **Governor Presents Executive Budget**

**G**overnor Rendell presented his FY '06-'07 Executive Budget to the General Assembly on February 8, 2006. The Governor proposed that both the Improvement of Probation Services and the Specialized Probation Services (SPS) appropriations be funded at FY '05-'06 levels of \$5,918,000 and \$13,793,000 respectively. The SPS appropriation is currently supporting approximately 378 specialized juvenile probation officer positions.

**J**CJC Standards Governing the Administration of Restitution Funds were published in *The Pennsylvania Bulletin* (36 Pa.B. 957) as a Statement of Policy on February 25, 2006. The standards are intended to provide guidance to president judges of courts of common pleas regarding the administration of restitution funds.

The JCJC developed these Standards in conjunction with the Standards Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, to provide guidance to judges in the implementation of Act 217 of 2004. Act 217 included amendments to the Juvenile Act at 42 Pa. C.S. §6352(a)(5) to provide that the court may order payment by a delinquent child of reasonable amounts of money as fines, costs, fees or restitution as deemed appropriate as part of the plan of rehabilitation considering the nature of the acts committed and the earning capacity of the child, including a contribution to a restitution fund. Additionally, §6352(a)(5) requires the President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas to establish a restitution fund for the deposit of all contributions to the restitution fund which are received or collected, and to promulgate written guidelines for the administration of the fund. Disbursements from the fund must be made, pursuant to the written guidelines and the limitations of the Juvenile Act, at the discretion of the President Judge and used to reimburse crime victims for financial losses resulting from delinquent acts.

Act 217 also amended the Juvenile Act at §6323 and §6340 to provide that the terms and conditions of an informal adjustment or a consent decree may include a contribution to a restitution fund established by the President Judge. The Act also created §6304.1 "Summary offenses", which provides for the option of contributions to a restitution fund in cases where a child has failed to comply with the lawful sentence imposed for a summary offense.

The Standards include specific provisions in the written guidelines that include the following: disbursements from the fund shall require the signatures of at least two persons designated by the president judge; a policy requiring an annual report, detailing the aggregate and individual data regarding payments to and disbursements from the restitution fund; and a requirement for an annual audit, pursuant to county policy, of all payments to and disbursements from the fund.

## 2006 Criminal Justice Research Symposium Scheduled for April 3-4, 2006

The 2006 Criminal Justice Research Symposium will be held on April 3-4, 2006 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Harrisburg.

On Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Walter Phillips, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) will lead a panel consisting of the prior chairs of PCCD to discuss the value of using research and evaluation. Hon. Renée Cardwell Hughes, Judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and a member of both the PCCD and the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, will provide a Keynote Address on Monday afternoon.

The two-day conference will also include the following workshops:

- How to Submit an Evaluation/Research Proposal to PCCD
- Defining Goals, Objectives and Outcomes: Ensuring Consistency with Your Program Expectations
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Study of Life Skills Training Program
- Police Probation Partnership
- Pathways to Desistance / Youth Violence Reduction Partnership
- Egrants 101

Additional information about the conference, including registration information, can be found at <http://www.jrsa.org/events/pccd/index.htm>.

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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## Education Law Center to Develop Educational Aftercare & Reintegration Toolkit

Through the support of the MacArthur Foundation and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, along with many other entities, the Aftercare component of Pennsylvania's *Models for Change* initiative continues to progress. Efforts to gather information about current practice and procedure within the state have allowed for the identification of a number of issues in need of systemic attention. One of the most common issues is the problem associated with the transition of students from residential educational programs back into their home school districts. Virtually every county has identified problems in this area, with many listing school reintegration as the primary barrier to seamless transition from facilities to home communities.

As part of the response to this issue, the Education Law Center is in the process of developing an *Educational Aftercare & Reintegration Toolkit*, a resource guide that will be distributed to juvenile probation officers throughout the state. The Toolkit is being developed by Shari Mamas, Staff Attorney with the Education Law Center, along with input from a variety of sources involved with the Aftercare Project. The "Toolkit" will contain information designed to increase knowledge on a procedural and legal level, as well as to provide information about technical assistance available to probation officers and their departments in dealing with these matters.

The Toolkit is expected to be completed sometime in March, at which time the five Aftercare "Model Counties" will be trained with a curriculum being developed in conjunction with the Toolkit. Following this, the Toolkit will be widely distributed and regional training will be provided to all juvenile probation departments and staff. Additional training venues are also being considered.

For additional information about this project, feel free to contact Rick Steele at [c-rsteele@state.pa.us](mailto:c-rsteele@state.pa.us).

## Staff Development News

As we enter the busiest portion of the spring training season and approach the close of the current training year, staff and supervisors are reviewing progress toward meeting the minimum annual training requirement. Several workshops still have space available

*"Basics of Adolescent Substance Abuse: Trends, Interventions and Referral Skills" (#23)* scheduled for June 7-8 at the Days Inn Penn State still has limited space available for additional registrants.

A one and one-half day workshop entitled *"Successful Employment: A Modality to Behavior Change" (#20)* will be held on May 17-18, at the Days Inn Penn State. This program will provide participants the opportunity to become more effective at helping youth to prepare to enter an employment situation, be more effective job seekers, and enhance the chances that they will be successful in staying employed once they have gotten a job. This workshop will teach a critical repertoire of skills that are especially important for older youth. The session will be led by Cameron Ford and Courtney Hoppe of the New Hampshire-based MY TURN program, an education and career exploration/job preparedness program. MY TURN is a nationally recognized, award winning youth development program that was also recognized by the PEW Charitable Trust as one of the 19 "Solutions for America."

On the same days, May 17-18 at the Days Inn Penn State, the Center is also sponsoring another workshop entitled *"Enhancing Decision-making Competencies with the Facts of Life Seminar" (#21)*. This workshop will teach participants how to lead a group of adolescents through a structured program designed to develop pro-social decision-making competencies. This program model was developed by Dr. Douglas R. Ramm, a Westmoreland County board certified clinical psychologist who has been using this model with delinquent adolescents in his area for many years with very successful outcomes. Dr. Ramm has already taught scores of professionals to do the same. Running competency development groups with our clients is what our system staff should be doing more in order to enhance our outcomes. This is one of several model that has demonstrated promise.

Further details on these programs can be found in the Spring 2006 Staff Development booklet, or online at: [www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us) Other questions may be addressed to either Stephen Bishop at (717) 477-1294, or John Herb at (717) 477-1185, extension 3.

## 2006 Safe Schools Conference

The 2006 Safe Schools Conference, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania State Police, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Center for Safe Schools, will be held at the Hilton Harrisburg and Towers from May 1 through May 3, 2006.

This year's conference will focus on creating a positive school culture that supports academic success and provides a safe teaching and learning environment. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to hear from state and national experts about the latest research in school safety and violence prevention, learn about effective program models and promising practices, and network with colleagues from across the state. Participants can choose from 8 full-day institutes and over 25 plenary sessions and workshops.

There is no registration fee to attend and most meals are provided. Participants are responsible for their own lodging and travel costs. A limited block of rooms is being held at the Hilton Harrisburg and Towers at a special rate of \$109 that is available until March 31, 2006. Please mention that you are attending the Safe Schools Conference in order to receive this rate. For more information, visit the Safe Schools website at [www.safeschools.info](http://www.safeschools.info).

## Aftercare Forum Held

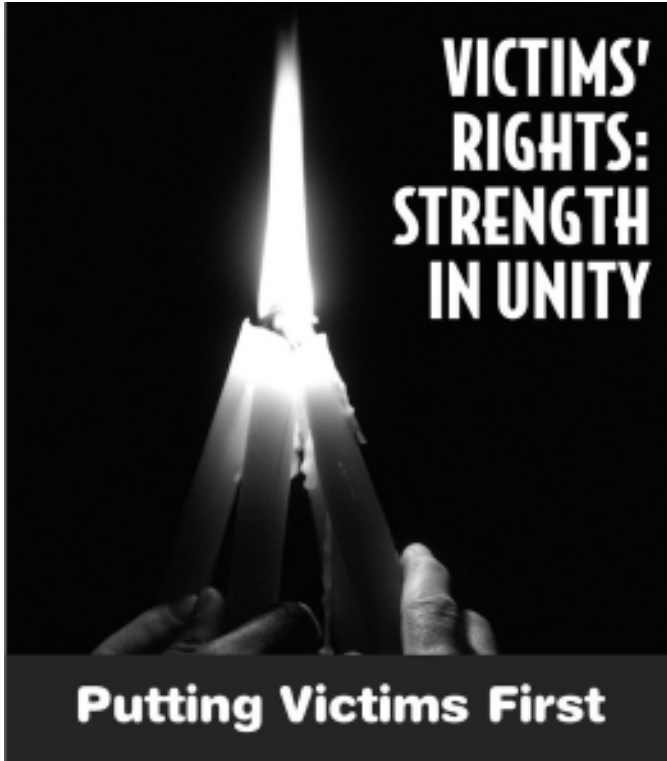
On December 1-2, 2005, an Aftercare Forum developed in conjunction with Pennsylvania's *Models for Change* initiative, was held at the Days Inn, State College. Over 75 registrants, representing 27 juvenile probation departments and 14 other agencies participated in this event. The forum began with a presentation regarding the *Models for Change* initiative by Autumn Dickman of the Juvenile Law Center. Ms. Dickman reviewed the Disproportionate Minority Contact and Mental Health / Juvenile Justice Coordination components of the initiative, in addition to the goals of Aftercare.

The first day of the Forum contained various presentations regarding Aftercare. Rick Steele and Kelly Franklin, Aftercare Specialists with the Juvenile Court Judges Commission and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, reviewed the Joint Policy Statement on

*Aftercare, continued on page 4*

# National Commemoration of 2006 National Crime Victims' rights Week Victims' Rights: Strength in Unity

During the week of April 23-29, 2006, crime victims and survivors, and those who serve them will join together across America to promote victims' rights and services, and to educate our communities about the devastating impact of crime on victims, neighborhoods, schools and our nation as a whole. The theme of the 2006 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, "Victims' Rights: Strength in Unity," pays tribute to crime victims and survivors who, for many decades, have joined together in mutual support and advocacy to promote victims, rights and services. It also recognizes the ongoing efforts of countless victim service providers, justice professionals, and volunteers who selflessly dedicate their lives to helping victims of crime.



For decades, crime victims and those who serve them have joined forces to ensure that all victims are aware of their rights, and have access to the many services that can help them in the aftermath of crime. There are many programs in our communities that provide victims with crisis intervention, counseling, support, safety planning, and advocacy throughout the criminal and juvenile justice processes; including our state's victim compensation program that helps victims recover from the many costs associated with criminal victimization.

The 2006 National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be "kicked off" in Washington, D.C., with its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Candlelight Observance on Thursday, April 20, and its Award Ceremony on Friday, April 21. For information about national resources available to help crime victims, please visit the website developed by the Office for Victims of Crime, at [www.crimevictims.gov](http://www.crimevictims.gov).

## *Aftercare, from page 3*

Aftercare. Pat Torbet and Doug Thomas of the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) reviewed the stages of Aftercare, the Competency Development White Paper, and information regarding the use of screening and assessment instruments. Candace Putter and Marna Ferster, of the Philadelphia Reintegration Initiative, led the group through an exercise aimed at developing appropriate Aftercare treatment plans. The first day ended with a presentation by Michele Ambruch describing the connection between the Communities That Care Initiative and Aftercare.

The second day featured presentations by the four Aftercare Model Counties currently funded through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). Steve Vajda introduced York County's Intensive Aftercare Model, and reviewed the project activities and phases involving each youth. Cindi Wess and staff from Goodwill Industries described Cambria County's partnership with Goodwill Industries, where youth are involved in

an in-depth job skills / job readiness project that includes individual assessment and a variety of work experiences for each participant. Russ Carlino, from Allegheny County, introduced members of his Educational Specialist staff, who informed the group of their progress in working directly educational staff in residential programs to facilitate educational reintegration and credit transfer issues. Mr. Carlino also discussed Allegheny County's placement decision-making guidelines, which offer a structured and consistent manner for staff to make placement recommendations. Finally, Ed Robbins reviewed Lycoming County's project which focuses on strategies to support and strengthen family involvement for youth in placement and upon their release.

The Aftercare Forum was well received by those in attendance. Those interested in additional information about the Aftercare component of the *Models for Change* initiative should contact either Rick Steele at [c-rsteele@state.pa.us](mailto:c-rsteele@state.pa.us), or Kelly Franklin at [kfranklin@epix.net](mailto:kfranklin@epix.net).





## **Carol Lavery Confirmed As Pennsylvania's Victim Advocate**

**C**arol Lavery was confirmed as Pennsylvania's Victim Advocate on February 15, 2006, after being nominated by Governor Rendell for that position on January 3, 2006. As Pennsylvania's Victim Advocate, Ms. Lavery is responsible for directing the operations of the Office of Victim Advocate, located within the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole.

Ms. Lavery previously served as the Director of the Office of Victims' Services (OVS) within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), a position that she held since 1996. As such, she was responsible for the allocation of over \$30 million in federal and state grant funding to community-based victim service centers, district attorneys offices and juvenile probation offices.

She was responsible for the oversight of the Commonwealth's Crime Victims Compensation Program. Under her leadership at PCCD, the Crime Victim Compensation Program increased claims more than 100 percent, while at the same time reducing the amount of time that a victim must wait for compensation from an average of 26 weeks to 8 weeks.

She has overseen a variety of initiatives, including the creation of one of the first state Victim Assistance Training Academies in the nation, and the state's prestigious Governor's Pathfinder Awards

Program for outstanding victim service professionals. In the aftermath of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks, Ms. Lavery was responsible for the development and funding of services for Pennsylvania residents directly victimized or who lost family members in the New York and Pentagon attacks, and for surviving family members of those killed in the Shanksville crash of Flight 93. She has been a leading force behind victim-related legislation, including enhanced rights for victims of juvenile crime and increased victim compensation benefits.

She is currently the President of the Board of Directors of the National Organization of Victim Assistance, a Board member of the National Association of Victim Assistance Administrators, and an Advisory Board member of the National Criminal Justice Association. She is a founding member and former President of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, and a founding member of the Coalition of Pennsylvania Crime Victim Organizations. For 17 years, she was the Executive Director of the Victims Resource Center of Luzerne and Wyoming Counties, an organization that she helped found in 1974. She holds a Masters Degree from Marywood University and a Bachelor's Degree from Wilkes University.

## **DPW to Relocate Southwest Secure Treatment Unit to South Mountain Restoration Center**

**T**he Department of Public Welfare has announced that South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit (SMSTU), currently operated by Cornell Companies, Inc., will cease to operate as a state-contracted facility effective June 30, 2006. The Southwest Secure Treatment Unit (SWSTU), a state-operated facility, will relocate to the grounds of the South Mountain Restoration Center in place of the SMSTU.

According to Anne Marie Ambrose, Director of DPW's Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services, the discontinuance of the South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit's contract and the relocation of the Southwest Secure Treatment Unit to the South Mountain Restoration Center are the result of implementing cost-saving initiatives through reorganization. The Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services will work individually with juvenile probation departments to coordinate the placement plans for all juveniles under commitment to the SMSTU and SWSTU.

## 2006 JCJC AWARDS PROGRAM

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the 2006 JCJC Awards Program. Please note that a new "Victim Advocate of the Year" category has been added. This year the award categories will include:

**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 delinquent youth.

**JCJC VICTIM ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR** - 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 any individual who provides secretarial support services to the juvenile court.

**JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER**  
**JUVENILE PROBATION SUPERVISOR**  
**CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER**

Chief Juvenile Probation Officers may nominate individuals or programs for each of the above award categories. Individuals must be nominated from the county in which they are employed. Providers may contact chief juvenile probation officers in an effort to have their program nominated. **Nominations must be postmarked by April 28, 2006.**

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission will also once again sponsor a Youth Awards Program at this year's Annual Conference on Juvenile Justice, to honor the youth selected as winners in the Poster, Creative Written Expression and Outstanding Achievement Contests. The Awards Committee encourages all juvenile justice professionals to present the awards theme and requirements to all youth under their jurisdiction for their participation in the contest. **Youth Award nomination materials must be postmarked by April 28, 2006.**

Thank you for your interest and support of the 2006 JCJC Awards Program. Please contact Arlene L. Prentice at (717) 783-7836, or [aprentice@state.pa.us](mailto:aprentice@state.pa.us), if you have any questions or desire additional information.

## 2nd Annual PTSD Conference Set

The Sheraton Four Points Inn, Greensburg, will be the site of the 2nd Annual Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Conference, scheduled for March 27-31, 2006. This conference will contain vital information for professionals working with adolescents, including social workers, probation officers, therapists, counselors in residential placements, teachers, police officers, psychiatrists, psychologists, attorneys, religious leaders, and social service staff of all types. There is no registration cost for this conference and breakfast and lunch will be provided. Lodging arrangements can be made by contacting the Sheraton Inn at 724-836-6060. Individuals may register for the conference online at: [www.co.westmoreland.pa.us](http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us) using the keyword PTSD, or by contacting Deb Ciocco at 724-830-1815 or [dciocco@co.westmoreland.pa.us](mailto:dciocco@co.westmoreland.pa.us).

In the next several months, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission will be converting its monthly "Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice" newsletter to online dissemination only. Information regarding subscription to the online version of "Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice" will be detailed in future issues.

