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PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

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October 2006

Allegheny County honors probation staff

by: Ron McKeever

First Row: Judge Ward, Judge Flaherty,
Judge Hertzberg, Judge Hens-Greco,
President Judge James, Administrative
Judge Clark, Judge Rangos, Judge
Woodruff

Second Row: Joe Cacolice, Eric Joy,
Chuck Bregman, Ron Seyko, Karen
Ambrose, Linda Tanis, Rich Smith, Lou
Guardino, Bob Dassel, Court Administra-
tor Ray Billotte

Third Row: Bert Hatheway, Lenny
Thomas, George Kinder, Kevin Buckley,
Steve Bechtold, Bob Straw, Ted Kairys,
James Tucker, Ron Dziuban, Ray Bauer,
Director James Rieland



Allegheny County Family Division enjoyed a popular and successful celebration of Juvenile Justice Week from October 1-7, 2006. A special feature in previous years has been the swearing in ceremony for new probation officers. This year, Allegheny County Juvenile Court's Community Education Initiative invited a select group of probation officers, supervisors, and administrators with 25 years or more of service to be re-sworn by Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark, Family Division Administrative Judge. Nineteen veteran juvenile probation officers were recognized for their commitment and dedication to youth, families, and citizens of Allegheny County on October 4, 2006.

These 19 probation officers represent a total of 590 years of performing probation work with the youth of Allegheny County, with the most senior probation officer having a total of 41 years of service! The program also emphasized the renewal of their commitment to continue the implementation of the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice.

James Rieland, Director of Probation, remarked that this group of individuals form the backbone of a profession devoted to

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PCCD sponsors forensics training

by: Paul Zona and Kimmy Mulik
Carbon County Juvenile Probation Department

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency sponsored a training program on forensics, on September 6-7, 2006, in State College, to provide participants with information that could prove helpful in dealing with victims, their families, and other individuals interacting with the justice system. The material presented, especially the graphic photos, provided us with a better understanding about how victims may feel. Hence, teaching us to become more empathetic and patient when dealing with those who have been victimized.

The training provided detailed information regarding criminal investigations, the impact of the media, and the expectations of victims, jurors, and the public. The realities of forensics were examined and explained at all levels. Speakers representing various agencies made presentations, including a district attorney, an accident reconstructionist, a nurse specializing in forensic rape examinations, a crime scene investigator, a county coroner, a representative from the Crime Victim's Compensation Program, and a crime scene clean-up crew.

While most of the participants represented victim assistance agencies, the information presented provided us with useful information that will assist in our interactions with victims and professionals from other fields in the justice system.

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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On-line Juvenile Act training planned

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) has contracted with The Education Coalition (TEC) and Community Corrections e-Learning Collaborative (CCELC) to develop a "Pennsylvania Juvenile Act" on-line training program to be piloted in January 2007. Beginning in the Spring 2007 training season, the Juvenile Act will no longer be exclusively taught as a segment of the Center's two-week New Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) Orientation Program. The Juvenile Act segment, which currently constitutes 7 ½ hours of instruction time, is being designed as an on-line course. The course will be available, and recommended, for each participant to complete prior to attending the first week of New JPO Orientation.

This new on-line course, though administered outside the Center, remains an integral and necessary element of the complete New JPO Orientation package. The course will include components of the Juvenile Act, Pennsylvania Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure, and courtroom testimony that are currently covered; **no content will be lost.** The course will span 1-week, with officers needing to complete 1-1½ hours of course work per day on-line. The course will be taught/facilitated by JCJC staff. First-time on-line students will also need to take an "On-line Learners Orientation" course prior to taking the Juvenile Act course. On-line class size will be limited to 20 participants; however, there will be ample offerings for all new staff to complete the course prior to each season's New JPO Orientation. **This course also provides an excellent opportunity for veteran staff to get a refresher on the Juvenile Act.**

The cost for the on-line "Pennsylvania Juvenile Act" course for new staff, including the "On-line Learners Orientation", will be folded into the total registration fee for the Center's New JPO Orientation, bringing the new total cost for New JPO Orientation to \$250 per registrant. However, each participant will be responsible for registering separately with TEC/CCELC for both the "Pennsylvania Juvenile Act" and "On-line Learners Orientation" courses. Veteran staff interested in taking the course can register and pay \$75 directly to TEC/CCELC. Schedules for the Juvenile Act course will be determined and announced at a later date. Staff who will be registering for the spring "New JPO Orientation" session may wish to take the "On-line Learners Orientation" course now, by registering as outlined in the Fall 2006 training booklet.

On-line training continued on page 6

McGuffey CTC site holds summer program

The Communities That Care (CTC) model begins with the end in mind. The end goal is healthy behaviors for children and youth. The Social Development Strategy (SDS) was developed by Dr. J. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard F. Catalano, of the University of Washington, to organize the research on healthy youth development. The SDS provides a road map, or framework, for getting from birth to healthy, positive adulthood.



The CTC model and the SDS conclude that in order to motivate young people to follow healthy beliefs and clear standards, there must be bonding or an attached, committed relationship between an adult and a child. To develop an attached, committed relationship between a child and an adult, research has shown that three conditions are necessary: Opportunities - Providing youth with developmentally appropriate opportunities to be meaningfully involved with and contribute to the social group (family, school, etc.). Skills - When providing opportunities, we need to make sure they have the emotional, cognitive, social and behavioral skills to be successful. Recognition - When young people have been given

opportunities and have the skills to be successful, we need to ensure that they are recognized for their involvement. This sets up a reinforcing cycle in which children continue to look for opportunities and learn skills and, therefore, get recognition.

Rural communities often do not have as many resources available for youth to experience meaningful opportunities and learn new skills and be recognized for their positive achievement. But the McGuffey CTC site, in rural southwestern Pennsylvania, has diligently provided children in the community with opportunities, skills and recognition for several years.

In addition to running a highly successful after-school program, McGuffey Communities That Care has conducted a summer program for the past eight years. McGuffey CTC is located in McGuffey School District and in the communities of Claysville and West Alexander in Washington County. This year, 25 youth between the ages of six and 13 attended the program which was held at the West Alexander Community Center, formerly an elementary school, but is now a Community Center and the location for the McGuffey CTC after-school program. The summer program was held five days a week during the hours of 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The youth participated in many exciting activities and crafts during the three week program. Representatives from local businesses, agencies, schools and churches facilitated the activities, thus engaging the community in the CTC operating system. The activities included a 4-H Rocketry lesson, a Lowe's workshop where they built their own model tractors, and lessons from the Washington Conservation District and the Washington Women's Shelter. A representative from Gander Mountain also provided the participants with weekly archery lessons. This activity was used as part of the research-based Participate and Learn Skills (PALS) program. The archery component was cited by the youth as being their favorite thing about the summer program.

Free lunches were provided daily through the McGuffey School District Summer Lunch Program, and the West Alexander Presbyterian Church generously offered their kitchen facility to serve these lunches. They also provided the youth with a story hour once a week following their lunch.



To conclude the summer program, the youth took a field trip to Oglebay Good Zoo in neighboring Wheeling, WV. The youth proudly wore the tie-dye t-shirts that they made as a craft, and enjoyed a picnic style lunch afterwards.

The Summer Program was a positive experience for youth, parents, and program staff. The McGuffey CTC Prevention Board plans to continue offering the program to area youth as an extension of the after-school program in the years to come. Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services is the lead agency for McGuffey CTC.

Staff Development News

There are four programs in November and December that are part of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) Fall Training Schedule that we encourage you or your staff to attend, as space is still available.

On November 14-16, in Mechanicsburg, we will host “**Group Dynamics: Basic Development Stages and Skill Development.**” This workshop will introduce participants to group dynamics to increase their knowledge and understanding of the power of groups in working with youth and families. Participants will be taught basic skills in facilitating tasks and treatment groups. This program will be led by Dr. Darla Henry, a consultant for 35 years in child welfare and adolescent-related work, who has presented several previous Center-sponsored workshops.

On November 29-30 in State College, we will host “**Who’s in Charge?: Helping Parents Take Back Control of their Children.**” This workshop will focus on age appropriate behaviors of adolescents, provide parent coaching techniques, and a model for change. This program will be led by Phil Washington, a nationally recognized consultant, known for his passionate and information-rich workshops focused on helping families.

On December 12-13, in Mechanicsburg, we will host the workshop “**Staff Safety Training – Phase I.**” This workshop is appropriate for all juvenile probation staff, including support staff. It should be considered prerequisite training for all staff in order to assure the safest possible practices in the field and in the office. This session will be co-led by Dave Gianoni, a supervisor, veteran trainer and member of the team that updated the Phase I curriculum, and Chris Whitman, a school-based officer. Both trainers are from the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department.

For further details on these, or other Center-sponsored training programs, please refer to the Fall 2006 Training brochure. Additional questions may be directed to [John Herb](#) at 717-477-1185, ext. 3, or [Stephen Bishop](#) at 717-477-1294.

Checklist for Screening and Assessment programs developed

One of the goals of the Mental Health/Juvenile Justice (MH/JJ) component of Pennsylvania's *Models for Change* initiative is the early identification of youth in the juvenile justice system who are in need of mental health treatment, including those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. The Screening and Assessment Subcommittee of the MH/JJ Workgroup recently developed the following "checklist" of issues for juvenile probation departments to consider when implementing screening or assessment programs:

- Collaboration among agencies, beginning at the earliest planning stages of the project, including, but not limited to, the following entities: Chief Juvenile Probation Officer; District Attorney (DA); Public Defender (PD); Mental Health/Mental Retardation (MH/MR) Administrator; families; Managed Care Organizations; Drug and Alcohol Administrator; Children and Youth Administrator; and educational administrators;
- Self-incrimination issues – (Is there agreement among the Court, DA, and PD regarding how the information will/will not be used?);
- Funding required to begin and sustain the project;
- Agreement on how the instrument will be used (Who will administer the instrument? At what point in the system will it be used? How will the results be shared with other agencies?);
- Approval of the screening/assessment policy by the Court;
- Training and education for users, on an ongoing basis;
- An educational seminar for entities outside of probation (DA, Judge, PD, MH/MR, D&A, education, etc.);
- Automation issues (Will the screening / assessment instrument interface with the local operating system; Will local IT support the instrument on an ongoing basis, etc); and,
- Data collection – (What aggregate data does the county want to collect for planning purposes? What type of data should be collected statewide?).

The Screening and Assessment Subcommittee recently endorsed the use of the Massachusetts Youth Screening Inventory, Version 2 (MAYSI-2) screening instrument for a pilot screening program. Implementation of the screening programs, by juvenile probation departments, is scheduled to begin in early 2007. Please contact Keith Snyder at (717) 787-5634, or at ksnyder@state.pa.us, if you have any questions or desire additional information.

Allegheny, from page one

victims, clients, and the community. Prior to administering the oath of office to these probation officers, Judge Clark likened probation work to a ministry dedicated to serving families, and thanked the honorees for choosing a professional and competent career path. Hon. Joseph James, President Judge, and Ray Billotte, District Court Administrator, complimented the group's wealth of experience and knowledge which have drawn national attention for innovation and resourcefulness. After swearing to continue performing their duties with fidelity and competency at all times,

the Probation Officers were greeted in a receiving line comprised of Family Division Judges Alan Hertzberg, Kathryn Hens Greco, Kim Clark, Dwayne Woodruff, Joseph James, Thomas Flaherty, and Christine Ward.

Also receiving applause for their support and participation were spouses, friends, and peers. After a series of official photographs, a reception was hosted by the Community Education Initiative to congratulate these veteran probation officers for all their achievements and reaching this milestone in their career.

Pennsylvania Disproportionate Minority Contract Initiative prominently featured in New Orleans

On September 7-10, 2006, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), held their 11th Annual Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. In attendance were representatives of the state advisory groups of almost every state in the country. The theme of this year's conference was "Law Enforcement Solutions for Reducing Racial Disparities and DMC in Juvenile Justice." Two presentations at the conference highlighted the work happening in Pennsylvania to combat DMC.

The following representatives from Pennsylvania presented information about the community/law enforcement dialogue forums that they have been conducting throughout the state: Dan Elby, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency DMC Subcommittee; Robert Listenbee, Esquire, Chief of the Juvenile Unit for the Defender Association of Philadelphia; Paris Washington, Chief Training Officer of the Philadelphia County Sheriff's Office; Yvonne Stroman, Director of the Berks County Community Partnerships Program at Community Prevention Partnerships; Kimberly Booth, Assistant Administrator for the Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Department; and Arlene Prentice, Juvenile Court Consultant for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

Presenters described ways to bring law enforcement together with minority community leaders and youth to pursue specific goals, including helping community providers and law enforcement officials gain a better understanding of each other through improved communication, and fostering collaboration to develop joint community/law enforcement solutions aimed at reducing racial disparities. The group also explained how they used DMC data to select the targeted jurisdictions of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading and Harrisburg, which have documented high rates of DMC.

Also at the conference, during the meeting of CJJ's Board of Directors, individuals who have been actively involved in the MacArthur Foundation's *Models for Change* Initiative explained some of the ongoing work around the country with regard to DMC. Through *Models for Change*, coalitions of stakeholders in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Louisiana and most recently Washington, have been working together to improve data collection and implement data-driven strategies to address DMC in their

localities. Berks County's progress in this regard was featured during the presentation.

Mark Soler, Executive Director and Dana Shoenberg, Senior Staff Attorney from the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP) presented preliminary data from CCLP's review of probation client files in Berks County and their extensive interviews with probation staff and other stakeholders. Ms. Shoenberg described issues that CCLP identified and explained how the new data can help inform decision-making. For example, Latino youth are disproportionately detained after referral to the juvenile justice system. One recommended reform is to increase the range of detention alternatives available in the county, such as the development of more evening reporting centers that stay open later in more communities where youth referred to the juvenile justice system live. Data regarding race, ethnicity, and zip codes can help determine where the best locations for evening reporting centers should be, and which community organizations might be effective in serving those youth.

Judge Arthur E. Grim, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas 23rd Judicial District (Berks County), and also the Chairman of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, spoke about the strategies he has used to develop the steering committee for this project in Berks County. He emphasized the importance of involving individuals who show energy and commitment from diverse parts of the community as the key to success. He also painted a picture of the changing demographics of central Pennsylvania, and the challenges it presents.

On-line training, from page 2

Please note on the registration that you will be taking the Juvenile Act course, and also send a copy to Stephen Bishop, at spbish@ship.edu or by fax 717- 477-1236.

A more detailed protocol for registration, course schedules, etc., will be provided in the near future to the entire training distribution list and included in the Spring 2007 training booklet. Please direct questions regarding this to Stephen Bishop at 717-477-1294.



Heidi Bryan, of the Pennsylvania Suicide Prevention Initiative, speaking in the rotunda of the Capitol in Harrisburg

2nd Annual Suicide Prevention Week Kick-off Event at the rotunda

Approximately 75 people attended the 2nd Annual Suicide Prevention Week Kick-off Event at the Capitol rotunda on Tuesday, September 12, 2006. Over 20 mental health, suicide prevention, state agencies, and human services organizations from across the state had displays with information available on topics such as depression, substance abuse, suicide, and grief of family and friends. The Empty Shoe Memorial was also displayed on the Rotunda steps, illustrating the lives lost to suicide. Speakers representing the Legislature, Governor's Office, and numerous state agencies also participated, making the event a significant step forward in promoting awareness about suicide and suicide prevention.

The event was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Suicide Prevention Initiative, a public-private coalition of various state departments, agencies, non-profit health and human services organizations, and universities. The Pennsylvania Suicide Prevention Initiative distributed copies of the new Pennsylvania Adult and Older Adult Suicide Prevention Plan. This plan was signed by the Secretaries Estelle Richman of the Department of Public Welfare, Nora Dowd Eisenhower of the Department of Aging, and Calvin B. Johnson of the Department of Health. The plan joins the Youth Suicide Prevention Plan developed in 2002.

Representative Mark Cohen, Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, was the first speaker. He began by reading a House Resolution making Sept 10–16, 2006, Suicide Prevention Week in Pennsylvania, and sharing his personal experience with losing someone to suicide. The Governor's Proclamation for Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week in Pennsylvania was read by Sonya Toler, Executive Director of the Governor's Commission on African American Affairs. Ms. Toler also shared her son's experience with depression

and reminded participants of the prevalence of suicide in the African American community, particularly among young males. As he did last year, James E. Anderson, Executive Director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, spoke on the need for suicide prevention in an often-forgotten population, the youth in the juvenile justice system. Jerry Reed, Director of the Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN) USA, gave an overview of suicide in Pennsylvania and America, urging participants to advocate for mental health parity and suicide prevention legislation.

Other speakers included: Ivonne Bucher, Chief of Staff at the Department of Aging; Carol Thornton of the Department of Health; Leslie Delp, Director of Olivia's House, a bereavement center; Hikmah Gardiner, Consumer; Mark Davis, Director of the Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association; Sherry Peters and Dawn Comly of the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; and Cathy Gettle, parent survivor of suicide. Perhaps the most riveting speakers, however, were the two teens, Amanda and Liz, who spoke of their own personal experiences of losing a friend to suicide, and/or attempting suicide. People in the gallery stopped to listen to these courageous young women tell their stories of pain and survival.

The event was planned by Initiative members Darlene Black, Heidi Bryan, Amy Flaherty, Diana Fullem, Arlene Prentice, Dawn Reese and Tami Wright. Their efforts resulted in a very successful event.

Victim/Community Awareness trainers

The *Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum: An Orientation for Juveniles* training program was held from September 25–29, 2006. Twelve participants representing probation, delinquency service providers, and victim services participated in the training. All participants were accepted for the training based on their interest, prior experience with the curriculum, and their commitment to provide a minimum of two training sessions within the next two years.

Several juvenile justice professionals assisted in the five days of training. The lead trainer for the five-day event was Cinda Watkins, who is pictured in the photo at right. She is the Training Director for the Sexual Responsibility & Treatment Program at the Torrance State Hospital. Cinda received her training in the first Victim/Community Awareness training for trainers in 2003.

Valerie Bender, the author of the curriculum and Senior Research Assistant with the National Center for Juvenile Justice, provided oversight and guidance during the initial days of the training. Her expertise, as well as the skills of all the other training assistants, was invaluable. Margery Miller, Supervisor and Balanced and Restorative Justice Coordinator for the Montgomery County Juvenile Probation Department, presented the Balanced and Restorative Justice section of the training; Richard Brunner, Program Specialist with the Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services, provided the adult learning session and Kristal Murren, a Consultant for the Office of Victims' Services of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, provided the impact of crime portion. The group was also fortunate to experience a presentation by Nancy Oppedal, from Mothers Against Drunk Driving, who shared her story with the group to further enhance their awareness of the far-reaching effect of crime.

The classes were held from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. each day, with "bonus" sessions held on two evenings for assis-



tance in preparing presentations. The first two days developed a foundation in balanced and restorative justice, adult learning, tools and techniques for training, the impact of crime (including a victim speaker) and diversity. Day three consisted of an in-depth review of the curriculum. On days four and five, the participants presented the curriculum as they would when teaching facilitators to use the curriculum with youth.

All participants were thoroughly engaged in the training, did an outstanding job with their individual presentations, and are ready to begin to train others. The evaluations reflected great satisfaction with the training program.

As a result of this very successful training program, there are now 12 additional trainers in the Commonwealth who are able to train those who are interested in becoming facilitators of the *Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum: An Orientation for Juveniles*. For information on obtaining training for your county or organization, please contact Susan Blackburn at phone 717-477-1411 or via e-mail at sblackburn@state.pa.us.

Weaving Our Community Threads – a service learning project

by: Susan Goss, Venango County

Weaving our Community Threads is an intergenerational service learning project and an excellent example of court and community collaboration. Planning included the youth of Venango County Court Supervision Services and Youth Alternatives, along with adults from Court Supervision Service, Youth Alternatives, the City of Oil City, the Oil City Garden Club, Venango Technology Center Natural Resource Department, Victim Services (PPC), Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Take Pride in Oil City Committee, Venango County Substance Abuse, Second Presbyterian Church, and the Venango County Conservation District.

The goals of this project are to involve juvenile offenders in activities that provide skill-building and relationship-building with law-abiding adults, while contributing to the community. Additional goals include having juvenile offenders working along side non-offending youth in an effort to alleviate the economic and social barriers that currently exist between different sectors of the community.

The project began with youth from Youth Alternatives, Second Presbyterian Senior High Youth Group, and Juvenile Probation designing and building a float for the Oil Heritage Parade as a celebration of the tenth anniversary of Balanced and Restorative Justice. The float represented the roots of Restorative Justice around the world and collaboration between the court and the community. The youth did the research necessary for the ladies of Retired Senior Volunteers to make costumes for the youth to wear in the parade. The float took first place in the juvenile division.

The project continues with a revitalization of Hasson Park. This is a 48-acre park with an endangered historic rhododendron arboretum. Revitalization includes repairing drainage systems, cleaning out the stream bed, and rebuilding eroding banks. Willow trees and day lilies will be planted to minimize future erosion. The arboretum repairs include: replacing rhododendrons that were stolen or destroyed by the poor drainage; repairs to the brick patio and benches; and, installation of new walkways with a spiritual labyrinth for visitors to enjoy.

Additional projects include: replanting idle flower beds with perennials and a standing oak forest damaged by poor drainage and gypsy moths; installing new fire pits for grilling; natural sculptures; and a music garden.

Educational programs provide the youth with knowledge in community partnerships, design, carpentry, forestry, horticulture, drainage, water conservation, ecology, and landscaping. The project will allow the youth to use their newly acquired skills in real-life situations in their community. It will also provide social skills such as problem solving, time management, communications, predicting consequences, identifying solutions, accepting criticism, conflict resolution, work ethics, and other interpersonal employment skills. The youth are required to complete a written reflection on their participation, affording them the opportunity to process their own behaviors and understand how their thinking affects not only their choices but their success or failure.

This project will conclude with a community celebration at Hasson Park in late-summer, 2007. The celebration will include refreshments, old-fashioned games, storytelling, music, art displays and recognition of the youth who participated in the project. The youth are hoping to bring members of the community together to restore the park, at one time the center of community activity, and revitalize its use.



Chester County Juvenile Justice Week ceremony

The Fourth Annual Chester County Juvenile Justice Week Recognition Ceremony was held on Thursday, October 5, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. in Courtroom 1 of the Historic Chester County Courthouse. This event was held in recognition of Governor Rendell's proclamation announcing Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice Week from October 1-7, 2006.

The event, presided over by Chester County Juvenile Court Supervising Judge Anthony Sarcione, focused on the tenth anniversary of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Courts' mission of Balanced and Restorative Justice and the introduction of the Chester County Juvenile Court's performance outcomes to the public.

The Chester County Juvenile Court's 2005 "report card" indicated that the efforts of the Court are paying off, with 90 percent of juvenile offenders successfully completing Court-ordered conditions without a serious violation of probation, and 91 percent not committing any new offenses while under supervision. Further, 97 percent of juveniles with a restitution obligation paid their restitution, and 98 percent of juveniles with a community service obligation completed community service.

Also during the ceremony, the first annual George M. Bratcher, III, Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year Award was presented. The award is named for long-time juvenile probation employee George M. Bratcher, III, who retired from the department on October 2, 2006, after 38 years of service.

President Judge Paula Francisco Ott recognized Mr. Bratcher during the Juvenile Justice Week Recognition Ceremony for his years of dedication to the youth of Chester County. George was the first African American to be hired by the Chester County Juvenile Probation Department, in 1968. He knew that many people would attentively note how he interacted with each strata of society and that he would be setting an example for many others. Even as a young probation officer, he exemplified a combination of strength and kindness that had a calming affect on youth and on their parents. He has continued for over 35 years to exert an extraordinary influence on the surrounding community and the probation department, always advocating that probation officers should be seen as a part of the community and focus on community service well before the advent of Balanced and Restorative Justice.

George often reminded his colleagues that each probation officer must not only work with youth, but also with each segment of society that can be a resource for that young person. In 2000, in a ceremony at the Chester County Juvenile Court, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission recognized George for his years of service to the juvenile court. It is due to George's example and dedication to the youth and families of Chester County, that Chester County's Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year Award is proudly named in his honor.

The first recipient of this award, which recognizes an outstanding juvenile probation officer who has made a positive impact upon the department and the community, is James M. Wiggins, a school-based probation officer at West Chester's Henderson High School who has been with the Department since 1999. James began his career in juvenile justice after a 1998 summer internship in the probation office's Intake Department. James is not only involved in various professional activities, such as participating in the Victim Issues Committee and the Criminal Justice Speakers Team, but is also active in the community, coaching football and track at Bishop Shannon High School, and as an active member of the Board of the Greater West Chester Police Athletic League.

Juvenile Detention Centers Week declared throughout Pennsylvania Remsburg named Vice President of National Association

October 15-21, 2006, was declared Juvenile Detention Centers Week throughout Pennsylvania via House Resolution 887. This declaration recognizes the hundreds of men and women who are dedicated to ensuring the proper care and supervision of youth, as well as their commitment to community protection.

In conjunction with this declaration, Nicole Remsburg, Executive Director of the Juvenile Detention Centers Association of Pennsylvania (JDCAP), was named the Vice President for the Eastern Region of the National Juvenile Detention Association. Her installation took place October 16th as part of the 12th National Symposium on Juvenile Services in Las Vegas, Nevada. This represents significant recognition for the 22 detention centers who serve over 21,000 admissions.
Detention Centers Week continued on last page

Project H.E.A.R.T completes its sixth year

McKeesport's Project H.E.A.R.T., formerly known as the Youth Stipend Program, recently completed its sixth year. Although there have been many changes in the program, the essence has remained the same—to educate youth on the facts of HIV and AIDS, to develop job-readiness skills, and to learn about the effects of risky behavior choices. This project was made possible by McKeesport Communities That Care, The McKeesport Collaborative, Mon Youth Community Services, and the McKeesport Healthier Communities PartnerSHIP Logic Model on Youth.

This summer program educates and trains 12-16 year-old Peer Leaders on how to talk to their peers about healthy beliefs and clear standards related to making responsible decisions about sex, encouraging peers to practice safe sex, and promoting a reduction in sexual partners. The goal of the program is to eliminate HIV exposure and infection among teens. In its early years, this project was limited to approximately 12 youth but, thanks to the sponsors, was able to accommodate over 30 teens in the 2006 summer program.

Project H.E.A.R.T stands for **HIV/AIDS Education And Research Training**. Youth may acquire an application to attend the program through various community agencies and schools. After filling out the application and writing an essay, the participants are then interviewed by members of the McKeesport Collaborative HIV/AIDS Working Group. Once selected, the adolescents are educated on topics related to general health and misconceptions about youth HIV infection. Working with adult facilitators, the Peer Leaders work on a community activity that demonstrates their knowledge of HIV/AIDS. They also educate their peers on the importance of practicing safe sex behaviors. The youth are expected to attend sessions 3 days a week from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. The facilitators brought in guest speakers from Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force, Adagio Health, and Emerging Leaders Program. Each participant was also provided the opportunity to register with the Worklink Van to aide in transportation for future employment. The participants also engaged in a day long team building activity at Camp Soles in Somerset county.

This year, Project H.E.A.R.T. performed a play titled *Living a Destructive Life*. Over 90 community members viewed the play. The youth also served as Community Ambassadors at the annual McKeesport Healthier Communities PartnerSHIP Health Fair. After completing the eight week summer session, participants receive a \$300 stipend and public recognition of their achievement.

Detention, continued from page 10
sions annually from the Commonwealth's 67 counties. Pennsylvania's juvenile detention centers, adhering to the Balanced and Restorative Justice model, contribute to public safety by providing a stable environment for at risk youth, both pre-adjudication and post-adjudication, by providing education, programming, and ensuring sufficient opportunities for growth and development of Pennsylvania's youth

JDCAP acts as the sole source resource for juvenile detention centers by offering education, representation, and support for all of the important services that juvenile detention centers provide for the Commonwealth's youth and communities.

Register now for e-mail notification of the on-line version of *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice*

