



Fayette County Juvenile Probation

Juvenile Justice Journal

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No Child Left Behind (Fayette County Style)

In an effort to make sure all children under their supervision have access to an education, the Fayette County Juvenile Probation Office has teamed with Adelphoi Village to provide instruction to those "hard to educate" students.

The "YES" (Your Education System) Program was developed for students who for whatever reason have problems adapting to the classroom setting in both public and alternative programs. It is a means for those who have dropped out of school to catch up enough to return to public school or as an alternative to dropping out, as well as a

means to prepare to take the G.E.D. equivalency test.

The instructor for the YES Program is Jason Bandemer. Jason is certified for Kindergarten through twelfth grade and instructs the students in Math, Science, English, Social Studies and Life Skills. He also helps the older students with job applications and writing resumes.

Upon referral, the educational plan is put together taking in account the child's needs, their Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) if they have one, and the expectations of the child,

the school district, and the JPO.

According to Jason, "So far, things are going well. In the future, other agencies may look to adopt this type of educational format."



**YES Program Instructor
Jason Bandemer**



MASV (Men Against Sexual Violence) Rally on Friday April 20 at 10:00 AM

Are You Man Enough???

The Crime Victims Center of Uniontown in conjunction with Fayette County Children & Youth Services will be holding their annual MASV (Men Against Sexual Violence) Rally on Friday, April 20.

The goal of the annual rally is to raise public awareness of child abuse, sexual assault, and victim's rights.

The rally begins at 10:00

AM at the Fayette County Courthouse with a march to the Uniontown Fire Department lot on Beeson Street followed by a luncheon, raffle, and Chinese auction. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

All proceeds will benefit the Crime Victims Center and Fayette County Children & Youth Services.

For more information, contact the Crime Victims Cen-

ter at (724) 437-3737 or Fayette County Children & Youth Services at (724) 430-1283.



**Day Treatment
Supervisor Les
Strader**



**Day Treatment
Probation Officer
Janine King**

Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes at Adelphoi Village Fayette Day Treatment

The 2006-2007 school year has brought with it a couple of changes at Adelphoi Village Fayette Day Treatment Program in Connellsville.

Les Strader is the new Director of the Program which includes Fayette Day Treatment, Fayette Elementary Program, Fayette Community Services, and the Competency Development Program. He was appointed to the position on August 14, 2006, two weeks before the start of the school year. When asked how he liked his new

job, Les explained, "I like it. It was stressful at first with school about to begin and I had three positions to fill."

Les has been with Adelphoi Village for four years. He previously worked as a caseworker.

The other change is the new school-based probation officer for the Day Treatment Program. Janine King took over the responsibility for Greg Martray, who left in September, 2007. In her capacity there, Janine will handle all

referrals to the Day Treatment Program as well as act as a liaison between the Juvenile Probation Office, the Day Treatment Program and the students as well as for other Adelphoi Village programming. She also serves on Adelphoi Village's safety committee.

Janine has been with the JPO since 2002. She previously worked in the Frazier, Belle Vernon, and Southmoreland School Districts.

From the Desk of the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

On March 26, 2007, I attended a training that we conduct in Fayette County periodically called "Cross Systems Training". As part of the Collaborative Board for Families we instituted the concept of having agency directors and service providers, large and small, meet with line staff from any social service organization who is interested and provide a brief summary of their agency's or program's activities and / or services and how to access these services when necessary. We have been conducting these trainings periodically for the past ten years, and as an agency director, it is always encouraging to see the number of new professionals in the audience. Not only is this type of training beneficial for the participants information wise, but it gives them an opportunity to meet staff from other agencies, network with them, and put names

with faces.

Along the same lines, however, directed towards clients, we have recently revamped our Competency Development Program. We are now offering a program produced jointly by Adelphoi Village and the Crime Victims' Center of Fayette County. Adelphoi Village is responsible for the competency related program, while the Crime Victims' Center is conducting a separate victim awareness program. The entire Competency Development Program takes place on the first and second Tuesday of each month in Uniontown and Connellsville. Participation in this program is mandatory for all Juvenile Probation clients.

Spring is upon us and we are beginning the process of gearing up for another active community service season. We were recently notified that our Office was the

recipient of a \$1,000 grant for the Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Commission to offset the cost of operating our community service program, for which we are greatly appreciative.

On a much lighter note, the Juvenile Probation Office will be well represented at the Summit Challenge on April 22, 2007. For those of you who are not familiar, the Summit Challenge is a 3.5 mile walk or run. Doesn't seem too bad except for the fact that the last 2 ¾ miles are up hill, and I do mean up hill. Those making the trek this year along with yours truly are Jeffrey Love, Mark King, Teanna Tracy, and Heath Randolph. There will be pictures to follow. Finally, golf season is also upon us, and the JPO is forming a very informal golf league to play locally. Nothing too serious, just a lot of fun.



**Chief Juvenile
Probation Officer
Jerome M. Andria**

Youth Commission Training and Conference Planned

The Fayette County Juvenile Probation Office in conjunction with Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation and the Pittsburgh Mediation Center, is sponsoring a training and conference for their volunteers this May.

All three agencies have similar programs in which minor, first time juvenile offenders are held accountable for their actions and are supervised by volunteers from their respective communities.

The overall goal of these

programs is to keep juveniles from becoming involved with the Juvenile Court on an official basis by holding them accountable for lesser offenses. It is also hoped that the volunteer could act as a sort of role model that the juvenile may be lacking.

“Mike Sturnick, the coordinator of the Westmoreland County Youth Commission, came up with the idea of doing a collaborative training,” explained Mike Lukac, coordinator of the Fayette County Youth Commission.

“We’ll have workshops on parenting skills and recruiting and retaining volunteers, plus the volunteers from all three Counties can see how their counterparts handle different situations. It will be a great learning experience for everyone.”

The conference will be held on May 5th at Westmoreland County Community College.

“It will be a great learning experience for everyone.”

--Mike Lukac
Fayette County Youth
Commission
Coordinator

Fayette County Youth Commission

On May 15, 1997, the Fayette County Commissioners formally adopted and recognized the Fayette County Youth Commission Program as a legitimate dispositional alternative for the Fayette County Juvenile Court and the Juvenile Probation Office.

Since its inception nearly 10 years ago, the Youth Commission has processed and supervised nearly 300 cases with about 80 percent of those cases being classified as successful releases.

The superb work done by the Youth Commission volunteers is the reason for these stellar numbers which not only keep kids from being placed in the “System”, but also allow the Juvenile Probation Office to focus their efforts on the more serious of-

fenders.

The Youth Commission has a wide range of experience among its members; some that have been there since the beginning, others who have just joined, and everywhere in between.

Some of the volunteers shared their feelings and experiences with the Youth Commission:

Matthew Thomas: I have been a member of the Uniontown Youth Commission, now the Uniontown/Laurel Highlands Youth Commission for eight or nine years.

Success and failure are part of the process but you can’t allow yourself to be detoured by the failures. The first person I was to supervise lasted five days after his hearing with the Youth Commis-

sion. He had stolen a car and was caught driving the car while possessing a firearm and drinking beer. I guess if you’re going to screw up, screw up BIG.

On the positive side of my Youth Commission experience, the last person I supervised completed the Program successfully and was the first youth to go through the program to attend collage. He started at a local University this past fall.

Individuals (the first-failure and last-success) had the same opportunity; one took advantage of the opportunity to participate in the Program and the other re-offended and sunk deeper into the juvenile justice system.

(continued on page 4)



The community working hand in hand is the key to preventing and eliminating juvenile delinquency

Fayette County Youth Commission (cont. from page 3)

“Children may not always remember what you say, but they will always remember how you make them feel.”

--Michelle Matthews
Youth Commission
Volunteer

As a whole, we have many more successes than failures. Mike has assembled a group of volunteers who have many talents and professions, but the one thing that connects the entire group is the desire to help someone, in this case a young person who has made a mistake and hopefully wants to make a change in their life.

I guess in summary my experience with the Youth Commission has been very positive, not only because of the many successes I have had with the juveniles I have worked with, but also from meeting and befriending the many talented volunteers who have worked to help a young person make a positive change in their life, which in turn pays dividends throughout that young person's life and also throughout the community.

Michelle Matthews & Donna Moore: Donna Moore, and myself, Michelle Matthews have been with the Youth Commission since its inception. Through the years we have come to appreciate the people we work with through the Juvenile Probation Office and the various other offices we've worked with along the way. The idea of volunteering your time is not one that all people can

afford to do, but Donna and I both agree that the experiences we have encountered because of our involvement are very much worth the time we have spent over the years being members of the youth commission. It always amazes us that the children in our area can come from such diverse backgrounds and still have the same problems. There have been many children and young adults we have worked with come up to us once they've completed the program and gone on with their lives and say that they appreciate the fact that we took the time to help them.

We had to learn early on that “you can't save them all.” Even with this unfortunate fact, the ones that we are able to help enable us to keep in mind that we can help some.

Our experiences with the youth commission have spanned a ten year time period and along the way we have not only learned to help the children of our community but we have also been blessed with friendships that will always be valued.

Our work with the youth commission can be summed up in a phrase that I have hanging in my classroom—“Children may not always remember what

you say, but they will always remember how you make them feel.”

This is the benefit of working with the youth commission; we can and do make a difference with every child no matter how minute.

Larry Fetsko: Ever since I met up with Mike (Youth Commission Coordinator Mike Lukac) at Penn State Eberly Campus my sophomore year my life has changed. He was recruiting for the Fayette County Youth Commission.

I was already interested in working with kids in my upcoming career so the Commission really interested me. I was a little nervous when I first joined, but it turned out that the other volunteers were the nicest group of people you could ask for.

The Youth Commission educated me a lot on troubled youth and how to properly teach and educate them to make better decisions. I have learned a lot from the trainings for all the commissions and have especially enjoyed the December training. I eventually got linked to the Fayette County Juvenile Probation Office and performed my college internship there. I got to meet a lot of nice and interesting people and also got to learn a great deal from all the Probation Officers.

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Fayette County Youth Commission (cont. from page 4)

I am now working at SPHS Behavioral Health and greatly enjoy my job mainly because I work with kids. I got a lot of education from Penn State but I got all the hands on education from Fayette County Youth Commission and as well as the Juvenile Probation Office. I really enjoy the Youth Commission and the opportunities I have to help better kid's lives.

Lyn Andaloro: I enjoy volunteering for the Youth Commission! The Juvenile Probation Office continues to educate and inform us of the many concerns of the young people in our community. Through quarterly training, we are informed on internet predators, signs of drug or alcohol abuse, physical abuse, mental health, bullying, teen pregnancy and other areas that effect our youth. This training has helped me with the young people we are involved with through the Youth Commission and has benefited me in raising my own children.

“Someone that cares and is willing to listen is often what the youths are looking for. Being aware of what to listen for and equipped with the tools to help is what the volunteer needs. Having the youth not re-offend and being productive with their life, is our goal. Having it all come together.....sweet music!!!”

Tina Wolford: I am a senior at Penn State and plan on graduating with my Bachelors degree in Administration of Justice in May of 2007.

I began volunteering with the Youth Commission for over a year now and the experience and knowledge that I have gained has been very beneficial to me in both my school work and as a resident of Fayette County.

Being a Youth Commission member has also given me first hand experience in dealing with the offender and their family, as well as teaching me what goes on behind scenes, as far as hearings, paperwork and many more aspects that involve the juvenile's placement into the Youth Commission.

Along with working with the kids, you will be able to meet wonderful people from the Youth Commission and be a productive citizen of Fayette County.

Jamie Pinkney: I'm honored to have served the Laurel Highlands/Uniontown Youth Commission as a volunteer for a year and half. It's been a rewarding experience one I would recommend to anyone who would like to give back to the community while having their lives enriched by making a difference in the lives of young people. I have had the opportunity to work with two teenagers, who

needed guidance. I found both experiences rewarding. My first young lady excelled in the program and has gone on to finish her senior year and still does community service just to give back. My second, a young man has opened up and although I did not get the desired outcome from him. I'm proud that I've made a difference in his life. They have made a difference in mine.

More volunteers are needed particularly in the Albert Gallatin and Brownsville areas. If you are interested or know of someone who may be, please contact Mike Lukac at (724) 430-1223 ext. 423.

“Someone that cares and is willing to listen is often what the youths are looking for.”

-- Lyn Andaloro
Youth Commission
Volunteer

Fayette County Juvenile Probation

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The primary mission of the Fayette County Juvenile Probation Office is to protect the community through assessment, treatment, and control of juvenile offenders by providing a range of effective services based on legal requirements and recognized professional standards.

If you have any questions or comments about any material in this newsletter, please contact Michael Lukac at the Fayette County Juvenile Probation Office at (724) 430-1223 ext. 423 or e-mail at mlukac@fayettepa.org.

Send us your comments!

(724) 430-1223 ext. 423 or
e-mail at mlukac@fayettepa.org



Sharing information
has been made
easier with the
PaJCMS

Juvenile Court Management System

As technology grows, so does the tools used by nearly every Juvenile Court system in Pennsylvania. In December 1999, work started on developing a new system for collecting and storing data on juveniles who commit criminal offenses.

The PaJCMS (Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Management System) went online with its first version in October, 2002. So far, 62 of 67 Pennsylvania Counties use the system to

collect demographic data, report charges and dispositions, and create various reports.

The Juvenile Court Judges Commission uses this information for statistical purposes as well as reporting dispositions to the Pennsylvania State Police.

The system also allows Counties easy access to information and creates various reports, form letters, and other documentation neces-

sary for their everyday operation.

In February 2007, Fayette, Washington, and Greene Counties were the first to go live with the new web-based version of the PaJCMS. This allows the Counties to report their data in real time. "So far, there have been a few minor glitches," according to Christy Nailor, one of the JCJC County Support Staff. "Overall, we've been pleased with how things have progressed."



The JPO can use
Global Positioning
System (GPS)
technology as a tool in
supervision

G.P.S. Technology: High Tech Supervision

Technology has also aided in the supervision of juveniles on probation. The Juvenile Probation Office has recently signed on with a new provider called SecureAlert for their Electronic Home Monitoring Program (EHM).

The old system had an ankle bracelet as well as a box that the offender had to carry at all times. The box stored all of the information as to where the offender went and the time. The offender then placed the box in the home

charger that was connected to a phone line. The charger downloaded the information to the company. The problem with that is that if the offender "forgets" the box, the system could not track them.

The SecureAlert system allows for an all-in-one operation; just an ankle bracelet which utilizes both G.P.S. and cellular technology. This means there is no more box for the offender to "forget" therefore as long as the bracelet is on, they can be tracked.

The cellular technology also allows the Probation Officer to talk directly to the offender, wherever they may be. So if they were out past curfew, or in a place they shouldn't be, they can be called immediately. The system also has a means to tell if the offender is tampering with their bracelet.

The use of EHM has been a valuable tool in better protecting the community and as an alternative to out of home placement.